

Britain expels 28 Iraqi diplomats

LONDON (AP) — Britain is expelling 28 diplomats from the Iraqi embassy in London, the Foreign Office said Sunday. Iraqi Ambassador Azim Al Salhi was summoned to the Foreign Office and told to reduce his staff from 32 to four within 48 hours, said a Foreign Office spokeswoman, who requested anonymity. "He was informed that in view of the current state of relations, the level of staff required at the Iraqi embassy was unjustified," the spokeswoman said. She said the Iraqi diplomats' families have a week to leave. The last diplomat at the British embassy in Baghdad left Iraq on Saturday. The consul general, Chris Segar, travelled overland to Amman, and was expected back in Britain within the next couple of days, the spokeswoman said. Britain expelled 75 Iraqis, including eight Iraqi embassy employees, on Jan. 3. The Foreign Office said the expulsions were a defensive move against Iraqi threats to attack targets in the West.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة باللغة العربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرائي

Bush: Gorbachev still backs U.N. approach

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush said Sunday that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had confirmed Moscow's support for the U.N. approach in the Gulf. "I believe the Soviet support for the United Nations approach is solid and firm and President Gorbachev told me that not so long ago," Bush told reporters. Asked about news reports from Baghdad Sunday that Iraq would not withdraw from Kuwait by the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline, Bush said: "It doesn't surprise me but they are making a tremendous mistake." Answering Americans who have demonstrated against any possible war in the Gulf, Bush replied: "I say we've got to do what we have to do and the Congress has affirmed that position. One of the arguments that people made was, get Congress involved... both houses of the Congress affirmed the policies of his government."

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Ben Bella arrives here

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Algerian President Ahamad Ben Bella arrived in Amman Sunday on his way to Baghdad to meet Iraqi leaders to discuss the Gulf crisis. Ben Bella visited Iraq and Jordan shortly after the crisis began with Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Ben Bella might meet His Majesty King Hussein before flying to Baghdad, according to sources quoted by Reuters.

Iraq lets former Kuwaiti envoy leave

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has allowed the former Kuwaiti envoy to leave Baghdad more than five months after his country was invaded by Iraqi troops, an Arab diplomat said. Ambassador Ibrahim Jassim Al Baho was allowed to leave for Jordan a few days ago after an appeal made by His Majesty King Hussein, diplomatic sources said. Al Baho was banned from travel after the invasion and was deprived of his diplomatic status. His children were allowed to leave last September for school in Europe, and he was free to move about without any restrictions in Iraq.

Khaddam in Riyadh

NICOSIA (R) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam held talks with Saudi Arabian leaders Sunday shortly after arriving in Riyadh on an unannounced visit, the Saudi Press Agency said. It said Khaddam, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, had talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal.

Iranian delegation in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iranian delegation arrived in Iraq Sunday carrying a message from Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz, the Iraq News Agency said. The Iranians — led by Mostafa Fumani Haeri, head of the foreign ministry's Gulf department — would discuss ways to implement a recent agreement allowing Iranians to visit holy Shi'ite shrines in Iraq, INA added.

34 killed in soccer violence in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — At least 34 people were killed Sunday when violence erupted at a soccer match over a referee's decision, the independent South African Press Association (SAPA) reported. The news agency quoted police as saying the incident occurred at a match near the town of Orkney, about 130 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg. "At the moment, there are 34 dead, but we are still counting," SAPA quoted police as saying. He said there was no indication the violence was politically motivated.

Iranian health minister dismissed

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's health minister Fayez was dismissed Sunday for mismanagement of the ministry that led a shortage of medicines and doctors. Tehran Radio said Fayez was dismissed by President Hashemi Rafsanjani after the parliament voted for his dismissal Sunday. Rafsanjani said he was "sorry to see one of my close colleagues go." The report did not elaborate on why Fayez was dismissed. But corruption in the ministry has reportedly led to state-purchased medicines being diverted to the black market, where they are sold at exorbitant prices.

Cairo names envoy to Libya

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has appointed an ambassador to Libya, a move that signalled the formalisation of diplomatic relations between the two countries, press reports said. Cairo newspapers said Moustafa Al Shazli left for the Libyan capital Tripoli Sunday to assume his post as Egypt's ambassador to the neighbouring country.

God only knows war or peace, U.N. chief says after Iraq talks

Perez de Cuellar heads for meeting with Mitterrand before reporting to council

From Lami K. Andoni with agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar flew out of Baghdad after 150 minutes of talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the Gulf crisis revealing very little of his mission to resolve the five-month-old conflict and saying only God knew whether there would be war in the region.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who would meet with French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris early Monday before flying to New York to report to the U.N. Security Council on the outcome of his talks in Baghdad, said President Saddam and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz had given him "a very clear idea of their positions."

Asked whether there would be war or peace, the veteran Peruvian diplomat answered:

"That is a question almost impossible to answer... it is something only God knows. But, he did say: 'Everyone wants peace and everyone wants to act in good faith.'"

In the flurry of diplomatic activities that centred around the U.N. chief's mission to head off an assault on Iraq by the American-led multinational forces arrayed in the Gulf,

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Saddam replies to Assad's call with invitation to join forces

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Sunday that Kuwait will remain Iraq's 19th province, Baghdad Radio reported.

In a message replying to a call by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to withdraw from Kuwait, Saddam called on Syria instead to join him in the fight against the U.S.-led force massing in the Gulf.

He told Assad that Kuwait will be "the theatre of the great battle between the believers and the infidels."

Saddam's message was read out in full by the radio as U.N. secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar held last chance talks with the Iraqi president to avert war in the Gulf.

"Our 19th province has become the field of the showdown which will liberate the (Arab) Nation, God willing," Saddam said in the message.

Assad, urging Saddam to put aside years of enmity, Saturday appealed to the Iraqi president to make a "brave" decision and withdraw from Kuwait to spare the Arabs a destructive war.

Saddam urged Syria instead to switch sides and join with Iraq. "It will be an event which will be recorded in history if President Hafez Al Assad joins the group of the faithful and reacts with them so that the group will be more powerful," he said.

"The field of the 19th province has become a battlefield for the showdown in which the (Arab)

Nation will be triumphant and Palestine, the Golan Heights and Lebanon and all the underdogs will be victorious over the U.S. administration, Zionism and corrupt Arabs," said Saddam.

Assad urged Iraq to quit Kuwait in an unusual appeal read by an announcer over Damascus Radio. He called on Saddam to put aside years of enmity between them and to "listen to the advice of a brother."

"I am not making this appeal to embarrass anyone, but I am appealing to a live conscience to deny our enemy the opportunity for which they have been longing," Assad said.

"Iraq alone stands to benefit

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Anti-war protests rock Europe, U.S.

BONN (Agencies) — Tens of thousands of anti-war protesters filled Europe's streets for a second straight day Sunday to demand that dialogue replace diatribe in the Gulf standoff.

The demonstrations, from Germany to Spain, came as U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met in Baghdad with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein just two days before the deadline for a pullout from Kuwait.

Pacifists were also reportedly

(Continued on page 2)

Israel says it will hit back if Iraq attacks it

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Members of the Israeli government said Sunday Israel would retaliate on its own against any attack by Iraq and would not rely on the United States to defend it.

Iraq has vowed to target Israel first if war breaks out in the Gulf.

Health Minister Ehud Olmert, a confidant of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting that Israel would strike back if attacked.

"If Israel is attacked, we will react. This is something that must be understood. We do not expect anyone to fight for us. We do not want anyone to protect us. We will do it ourselves."

Olmert said.

A senior U.S. delegation, headed by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, met Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister David Levy but officials from both sides refused to disclose the purpose of the mission.

The New York Times said Saturday U.S. President George Bush sent Eagleburger to assure Israel that Washington would try to protect it against an Iraqi attack and to urge Israel to stay out of the conflict.

"Whether or not there was a (U.S.) request is irrelevant, we will retaliate," the health minister said.

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13 die in army violence in Lithuanian capital

VILNIUS, The Soviet Union (Agencies) — Thousands of people chanting "freedom" rallied Sunday outside Lithuania's parliament building after Soviet troops stormed the republic's broadcast station, leaving 13 people dead and 110 injured, Lithuanian officials said.

The United States and the European Community (EC) condemned the pre-dawn Kremlin assault, and high-ranking NATO officials held an emergency meeting in Brussels on the situation. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said the attack "contradicts the basic principles" of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Kremlin forces deployed to the secessionist Baltic republic last week to enforce the military draft have taken control of at least seven key buildings in Lithuania.

Lithuanian nationalists built barricades outside the parliament on Sunday in the expectation the Soviet forces would try to seize the building. One Soviet general said such a move was possible.

Lithuanian lawmakers, meeting inside the parliament building in an emergency session, designated the republic's foreign minister to set up a government-in-exile if the Kremlin also crushed them. The legislators declared independence from Moscow in March.

Meanwhile, Albertas Shimenas, who was elected Lithuania's prime minister Thursday, appeared at the parliament late Sunday after being reported missing. The parliament, which was called into an emergency session Sunday by Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, had elected Gediminas Vagnorius to replace Shimenas.

Landsbergis said Shimenas had put his family in a safe place and had encountered difficulty in getting back to the parliament building. He is expected to have his powers restored to him by the legislators.

Elta said at least 13 people were killed and 127 wounded in an early morning army raid to seize the Vilnius radio and television centre.

It quoted the health ministry as saying the dead included a 17-year-old youth and a 24-year-old woman run over by a tank. The troops seized the broadcast tower after tanks charged at a human shield of young people massed five metres deep around it.

White House Chief of Staff John Sununu Sunday said whether or not President George Bush attends a planned summit in February with Gorbachev could depend on Soviet actions in Lithuania.

"It depends on what happens in the next few hours, the next few days," Sununu told Leslie Stahl on CBS television's Face the Nation.

Soviet "actions could cost the Soviet Union the support of Western Europe and the United States," he added.

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All would be losers in war — King

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday in a U.S. television interview that any use of force by a U.S.-led coalition against Iraq would bring disaster to the Arab World and cripple future U.S.-Arab relations.

"You may win one battle but you will lose the entire Arab World," King Hussein said in an interview from Amman on the Cable News Network (CNN).

"No one disputes the power and strength of the United States and the ability to inflict a lot of

damage, but inflicting such damage in this case in a war against an entire Arab people, the Muslim people, and the result would be horrendous," King Hussein said. "I don't think the future (of U.S.-Arab relations) would be very bright."

The King said all sides would be losers if war breaks out in the Gulf.

If there is war, "in the final analysis I don't think there will be any victor. All of us are going to be losers," he said in the interview with Rowland Evans.

King Hussein painted a bleak picture of any war in the Gulf, citing the cost in human lives and to the environment.

Economically, and for quality of life, a war "is going to set the entire region back," King Hussein said.

He reiterated his vow not to allow any foreign airplanes to use Jordanian air space in a Gulf war.

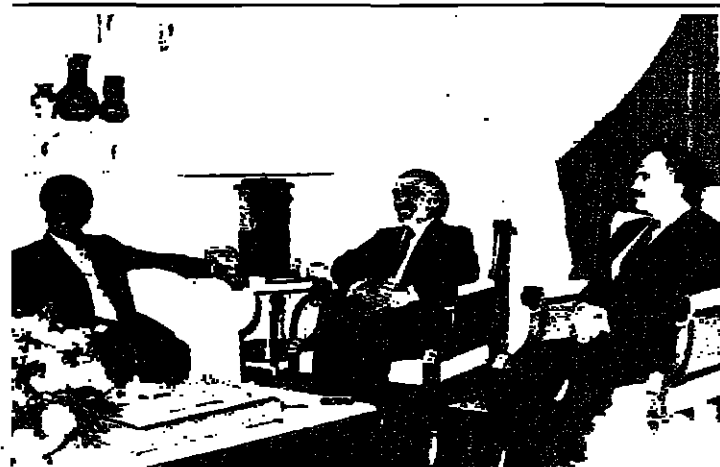
"We've made it abundantly clear that those who we got in touch in the recent past, many leaders in the world and we publicly stated that our stand is one

of defending our sovereign territory and we will not stand any violations either by land or in the air. We will try our best to prevent them from any part," he said.

The interview was broadcast just hours after U.S. President George Bush thanked Congress for voting to authorise force against Iraq if it does not leave Kuwait by Tuesday.

"Maybe peace can achieve some initial results but we would

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His Majesty King Hussein Sunday meets with Libyan number two Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, who delivered to him a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi (Petra photo)

King receives Libyan message

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on the Gulf crisis and means to resolve the crisis through peaceful means.

The message was delivered to the King by Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, member of the Libyan Revolutionary Council.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker,

the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh and Foreign Minister Tariq Masri.

Jalloud arrived here early Sunday leading an official Libyan delegation on a short visit to Jordan for talks with the prime minister and other senior officials on the situation in the region and the Gulf crisis as well as bilateral relations.

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Hurd sees slim chance for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Sunday he saw only a slim chance of averting war in the Gulf and called for an early military assault to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait if it refused to leave peacefully.

Hurd said he hoped U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar could persuade Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to withdraw from the brink of war during peace talks in Baghdad.

"The world is holding its breath obviously for what is happening and what is about to happen in Baghdad," he said. "There is a chance, not a very strong chance and we all hope that that chance will succeed."

Hurd, the most hawkish U.S. ally in the American-led anti-Iraq coalition, said Iraq had to comply with U.N. demands that it withdraw completely from Kuwait.

"It is essential that (Iraq) shows a clear decision to withdraw and begin to implement that. The practicalities can be discussed by the secretary-general," he said.

But Hurd said the alliance opposing Iraq should strike quickly once the peace option had been exhausted.

"I can't see any reason or prospect of long delay once it becomes clear that the chance of peace we are talking about no longer exists," Hurd said.

He essentially repeated Britain's and the European Community's backing for an international peace conference to tackle the Palestinian issue once Iraq withdrew from Kuwait but again ruled out any suggestion of linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We believe that a conference would be an important technique for finding a lasting and just

(Continued on page 5)

Details revealed of mechanism for U.N. plan

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More details emerged Sunday of the framework of a peace plan that U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar carried with him to Baghdad and, presumably, discussed with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein before heading back to Europe and the U.N. headquarters. The most outstanding element of the peace proposal, according to U.N. sources who provided the details to the Jordan Times, is that it has an official American approval and Mr. Perez de Cuellar will pursue it further with President George

Bush Monday "if the Iraqi president showed interest in the plan."

The five points revealed by the Portuguese minister covered a guarantee Iraq would not be attacked; a U.N. observer force to monitor an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait; a peacekeeping force after the withdrawal; an international conference on the Middle East after Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait; and a guarantee that the international forces against Iraq would be withdrawn.

The sources, who on condition of anonymity, said the peace plan outlines a process by the end of which Iraq would have withdrawn from Kuwait,

the toppled emir of Kuwait would return to his country and a statement calling for an international peace conference would be issued by the president of the U.N. Security Council. In addition another call would be issued for negotiations towards regional disarmament of mass destruction weapons.

The process would start, according to the sources, by an Iraqi announcement accepting all 12 U.N. resolutions pertaining to the Gulf crisis and the registration of this Iraqi approval by the Security Council.

(Continued on page 5)

De Michelis says PLO holds key to resolving Gulf crisis

ROME (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) holds the key to peace in the Gulf and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat should ask Saddam Hussein to withdraw Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the Italian news agency ANSA quoted de Michelis as saying. Such a decision would "certainly be in the interests of the Palestinians themselves," de Michelis said.

De Michelis told reporters that he used the same words on Saturday in his telephone conversation with Arafat in Baghdad.

The minister instead seemed to dismiss Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's last-minute attempts to make Gulf peace initiatives. Qadhafi, in a telephone conversation on Saturday with Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti, proposed an urgent U.N. Security Council meeting that would include Mediterranean and Mideast nations as well.

"It seems to me to be a last-

minute idea, as if to say 'I'm here, too,'" de Michelis was quoted as saying.

The ministry statement said peace in the Gulf was the "mandatory premise for the concrete start of a process capable of favouring the holding of a peace conference on the conflicts and tension in the Middle Eastern region, starting with the Arab-Israeli one."

ANSA quoted de Michelis as saying that Arafat could have an influence on the Iraqi leader.

De Michelis reiterated that "no one is inclined to create a direct tie" between the possible convening of an international conference on the Mideast and Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

"But the conference is already not only desired by the overwhelming majority of nations, but, in my opinion, seems to be

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(Continued on page 5)

Somalia appeals for aid, says fighting receding

CAIRO (Agencies) — Somalia appealed Sunday for food, medicines, blankets and tents, after two weeks of fighting between the army and rebels seeking to overthrow President Mohammad Siad Barre.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Mohammad Aden Qaybbeh said the capital Mogadishu was returning to normal and insisted the rebels did not threaten the government.

Western countries have shut their embassies in Mogadishu and hundreds of foreigners, including many wounded, have been evacuated. On Sunday, Egypt's ambassador to Somalia and 67 diplomats and Egyptians flew in to Cairo from Mogadishu on an Egyptian flight.

"The government of Somalia appeals to the international community and world relief agencies to rush humanitarian aid to Somalia which needs food, medicine and other assistance," Qaybbeh said.

"We need food and medicine, things like blankets and tents... a lot of people have left the city and we need tents for them," he told a news conference.

He said he asked Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which he visited before Cairo, for help and had received a positive response.

The minister denied reports by rebels that Siad Barre had fled. "Siad Barre is working normally from the presidential palace," he said at the end of a two-day visit.

On Saturday, the main rebel

movement, the United Somali Congress, repeated claims that the president had fled to Abu Dhabi.

Qaybbeh told the news conference that he might go from Cairo to Italy, the former colonial power in Somalia, for similar talks.

A seven-member team of Doctors Without Borders flew to Mogadishu Monday and have been treating the wounded and the sick in a civilian hospital downtown Mogadishu.

A Doctors Without Borders official said more medical supplies might be sent to Mogadishu Sunday. However, he could not say if his organisation had decided to indefinitely keep its staff in Somalia.

"We still do not have confirma-

tion from our people that they want to stay," the official said by telephone.

Earlier, the spokesman, Renaud Tockert, said the team in Mogadishu would stay if the combatants guaranteed to permit adequate shipments of medical supplies.

"The need is there. There are many wounded and sick," Tockert said.

About 1,000 foreigners have been evacuated since Jan. 5 in separate rescue operations by Americans, French, and Italians.

Italy, a former colonial power in Somalia, has maintained strong ties with the Horn of Africa nation of eight million people.

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Saudis postpone reform debate till after crisis

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia's ruling family, preoccupied with the Gulf crisis, has put the lid on an internal debate between liberals and conservatives over the Muslim state's social and political future, diplomats and liberals say.

The Al Saud family has persuaded the liberals to wait some months before they again assert their demands for social reform, greater press freedom and wider public participation in the decision-making process.

The authorities have put an end to an overzealous campaign by the mutawassits (volunteers), the religious police who monitor the behaviour of women and the observance of Muslim duties such as regular prayers.

Despite conservative pressure, they have appointed a new leader of the organisation, weeding out some of the extremists and channelling more money to the remainder, diplomats said.

Saudi Arabia, as the cradle of Islam, is run on strictly religious lines.

But the debate between liberals and conservatives has long been simmering under the surface of Saudi society.

It heated up again after the invasion of Kuwait last August and the subsequent deployment of U.S. troops in the kingdom.

"It really shook people up. Their world view was collapsing. People were all over the map from the shock," said one Western diplomat.

The liberals saw it as a perfect opportunity to press their case because the crisis discredited the conservative motion that Saudi Arabia could isolate itself from

the rest of the world. The sight of U.S. service women and Kuwaiti refugee women driving cars, which Saudi women cannot do. And the realisation that foreign non-believers, men and women, might end by dying alongside Saudi soldiers also seemed to strengthen the liberal case.

"The liberals made all the running in the first three months. The watershed was the women's driving incident on Nov. 6. Then the conservatives made a comeback," said a Saudi liberal.

Conservatives, in tracts handed out at universities and elsewhere, denounced the Saudi women who dared to drive in convoy through the streets of the capital Riyadh.

The ban on women driving has taken on enormous importance in the debate because it is one of the weakest links in the conservative case. The ban has no justification in Islamic law, the immutable basis of Saudi law, and the liberals can cite statistics for the economic damage it does the country.

The liberals say Saudi Arabia has to pay tens of thousands of immigrant workers to drive the women around and the ban helps restrict women's access to the job market.

In November, King Fahd promised to revive plans to set up a consultative council, the nearest thing the country is likely to have to a parliament. But the government has given no details and many Saudis doubt it will see the light in the near future.

"Saudi kings have twice

offered a council, on both occasions under pressure, and on both occasions they have quietly forgotten about it when the pressure was off," said a Saudi businessman.

The first time was in 1962, after the royal family deposed King Saud and when radical Egypt was fighting Saudi-backed conservatives in Yemen. The second was after religious extremists occupied the Grand Mosque in the holy city of Mecca in 1979.

The new head of the mutawa, formally known as the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Suppression of Vice, is Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman Al Saud, who is reputed to oppose compulsion in private religious matters such as prayers.

A vigorous mutawa campaign in November against rowdy parties attended by women appears to have come to an end, foreign residents said.

It is unclear what direction the debate will take when it resumes, diplomats say. Diplomats say much will depend on how well the royal family manages the Gulf crisis.

The Saud family, which controls all key posts in government, has generally followed a policy of cautious liberalisation since the Saudi state was created early this century.

King Faisal in the 1960s and 1970s was one of the most active reformers and some liberals reproach the present king for not pressing hard enough against the conservative lobby.

"But then in King Faisal's day the country had a lot further to go, there was much more reform," said a Saudi executive.



Palestinians throw stones at an Israeli army observation tower in the occupied West Bank.

Palestinians fear mass expulsions if Gulf war starts

By Sami Aboudi

JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian nationalist leaders have told European consultants in Jerusalem they feared Israel might try to force mass expulsions of Arabs from the occupied territories if war erupted in the Gulf.

Israeli security sources flatly denied any such plans.

Five Palestinians, including Faisal Al Hussein, the most senior leader in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, appealed for international protection in a news conference after meeting the European diplomats.

Hussein said Palestinian fears were based on information "from foreign and Israeli groups and the occupation authorities to implement transfer during the war."

"Transfer" is a euphemism used by far-right Israelis for mass expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to Jordan.

Palestinian leaders said Israel could use one of many scenarios either to justify the direct expulsion of Arabs or scare people into fleeing.

"We would like to make it clear here that the Israelis will fool no one if they try to make accusations saying that Palestinians are attacking the Israeli army to implement their policy," Hussein said.

Rana Nashashibi said: "Our experience with the Israelis caused us this anxiety because even with world attention focused on the occupied territories and during the intifada, this has not stopped the Israelis from deportations and... all kinds of atrocities against us."

Israel has expelled 62 Palestinians, including four this week, since the revolt against Israeli occupation erupted 37 months ago.

Israel is concerned that Palestinians might step up attacks against soldiers and civilians if a Gulf war erupted. Security sources say the army would move quickly to crush any sign of rebellion but the action would not include mass expulsions.

"The most drastic measures is to change to the open fire regulations," one security source said.

The Israeli army's judge-advocate general said Saturday that rule governing when troops can shoot would be changed if war broke out.

Security sources said troops would be authorised to shoot to kill and impose a curfew on the occupied territories.

Hussein said that some Israeli groups were planning to use the war atmosphere to expel Palestinians.

The Peace Now movement Wednesday sent a letter to the Israeli army chief saying it had information that Jewish settlers serving in the army in the occupied areas would try to scare Palestinians into leaving their homes if war breaks out.

Israel has threatened to strike at Israel if it comes under attack from a U.S.-led multinational coalition. The United Nations has given Baghdad a Jan. 15 deadline to quit Kuwait or face a war.

Church leaders in Jerusalem appealed to U.S. President George Bush and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Saturday to avoid war.

"On the occasion of the visit of the secretary general of the United Nations to Baghdad, we urge you to avoid war, spare lives and promote a just resolution of all causes of conflict in the Middle East," said a letter signed by 10 religious leaders.

Protests

(Continued from page 1)

gathering along the Iraqi-Saudi border, and in South Africa, Muslim youths shouted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel."

And with the Soviet military intervention in Lithuania, many of the demonstrations turned into dual protests for peace in the Gulf and the Soviet Union.

In the Bonn diplomatic suburb of Bad Godesberg, about 1,200 demonstrators formed a 2.7-kilometre human chain linking the U.S. and Iraqi embassies.

"We wanted to link the two major parties that are now starting towards war," said 41-year-old Gerd Greune. "We wanted to link them symbolically and say, 'please link yourself in non-violence. Violence will not solve any problem'."

In Frankfurt, about 5,000 people protested outside the U.S. Rhein-Main military airport.

On Saturday, more than 200,000 protesters filled streets and market squares throughout Germany to protest the Jan. 15 countdown to war. Their main theme: "No blood for oil."

The anti-war protests were mostly peaceful. However, at a Paris rally Saturday night police fired teargas to disperse about 50 demonstrators who refused to break up, and about a dozen people milling around the U.S. embassy were detained and questioned.

Tens of thousands of anti-war demonstrators rallied in Madrid and a dozen other Spanish cities on Sunday, urging a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

Organisers said more than 50,000 people filled a 1.5-kilometre stretch of a downtown avenue in Madrid.

"No to war. No soldiers in the Gulf," chanted the protesters, who also sang traditional protest songs while a band played.

The excuse to defend Kuwaiti sovereignty is a cynical display by those who occupied Vietnam and Panama, armed the Contras (in Nicaragua) and sustain the Zionist occupation of Palestine, violating human rights and United Nations resolutions."

Javier Sodaba said, reading a statement at the Madrid rally signed by 30 groups. "To stop war, the only possible solution is a withdrawal of foreign troops to pave the way for inter-Arab dialogue," he said.

The demonstrators also urged Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to recall three Spanish warships patrolling the Gulf area to help enforce a U.N. trade embargo against Iraq.

In Brussels, about 20,000 people demonstrated for peace in the Gulf.

"This is a demonstration of hope. If war breaks out next week, we will have a demonstration of anger," said Hugo Ongea, one of the protest leaders.

Hundreds of anti-war protesters gathered outside the White House and the U.S. Capitol Saturday, many chanting "No blood for oil" and others carrying banners pleading for peace in the Gulf.

"America's children, killed in action" and "which one was the one you loved?" read slogans painted on massive banners raised by demonstrators outside the president's residence.

Protesters tossed an American flag — meant to symbolise a wartime body bag — over the high fence that surrounds the White House. Several demonstrators were arrested, including one woman who screamed "what did I do wrong? I don't want to die" as she was carried into a police lobby.

There were other demonstrations across the United States. Protesters in Los Angeles occupied offices of a lawmaker who supports military action.

Resolution authorises use of U.S. force in Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — Following are the key provisions of the joint resolution that the Senate and House of Representatives adopted Saturday authorising the use of U.S. military force in the Gulf.

The Senate vote was 52-47 and the House vote 250-183. The measure now goes to President George Bush for signature into law.

"Resolved... the president is authorised, subject to subsection (B), to use United States armed forces pursuant to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 678 (1990) in order to achieve implementation of Security Council Resolutions 660, 661, 662, 664, 665, 666, 667, 669, 670, 674, and 677."

"Before exercising the authority granted in subsection (A), the president shall make available to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate his determination that (1) the

United States has used all appropriate diplomatic and other peaceful means to obtain compliance by Iraq with the United Nations Security Council resolutions cited in subsection (A) and (2) that those efforts have not been and would not be successful in obtaining such compliance."

"Consistent with Section 8(A)(1) of the War Powers Resolution, the Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of Section 5(B) of the War Powers Resolution."

"Nothing in this resolution supersedes any requirement of the War Powers Resolution."

"At least once every 60 days, the president shall submit to Congress a summary on the status of efforts to obtain compliance by Iraq with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council in response to Iraq's aggression."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Cuba not to recall diplomats from Iraq

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's foreign ministry said Saturday it would not withdraw its diplomats from Baghdad despite the threat of war. "We can't pull them out and leave more than 200 civilian health workers there," a ministry spokesman told the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina. Cuban President Fidel Castro said Friday that the 250 Cuban doctors and nurses working in Iraq had asked to stay on there despite the threat of an attack by U.S. and allied forces. The Cuban medical contingent consisted mainly of women doctors and nurses, the ministry spokesman said. Most of the nations with troops deployed against Iraq have withdrawn their embassy staff from Baghdad.

Saudi king donates to Georgia charity

SAVANNAH, Georgia (AP) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd headed a Savannah-area charity's call for help, donating \$100,000 to help replace donations that usually come from area soldiers now stationed in the Middle East. The cheque to the United Way of the Coastal Empire arrived Jan. 8 with a letter saying the king hoped the money would help the families of soldiers stationed in Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield. "We are really just getting over the shock," said Mike Hughes, president of the chapter, which does charitable work along coastal Georgia. The charity solicited a donation from Fahd because so many of its usual patrons — active soldiers and reservists — have left Georgia for the Gulf, Hughes said. He said donations were down five per cent to 10 per cent at a time when many military families need extra help. "King Fahd recognises the impact that the deployment of so many area residents would have on the community, and the special difficulties it would create for family members left behind to manage alone," said the letter from Saudi Ambassador Bandar Ben Sulthan.

Rocard postpones New Zealand visit

PARIS (R) — A planned visit to New Zealand this month by French Prime Minister Michel Rocard has been postponed because of the Gulf crisis, France said Saturday. The prime minister's office said the two countries would reschedule the visit to take place in the next few months.

Britain warns tourists away

LONDON (AP) — The Foreign Office said Saturday that it is advising British tourists to postpone non-essential visits to Israel and the occupied territories. "British citizens without essential reasons for staying in Israel and the occupied territories should consider leaving," a Foreign Office spokeswoman said.

British minister wants quick war

LONDON (R) — British Defence Secretary Tom King said Saturday the use of force against Iraq after expiry of the U.N. deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait would run the risk of greater casualties. "Delay would make the problems and obstacles facing our forces greater and we would run the risk of greater casualties liberating Kuwait later," King said in an interview with the Sunday Express newspaper. Speaking about the British contingent of the U.S.-led alliance of Western and Arab states, he said: "There is a job to be done and they want to get on with it."

Belgium confirms defensive role

BRUSSELS (AP) — The Belgian government Saturday said it would stick to a strictly defensive role in case war breaks out in the Gulf. The opposition blasted the government attitude as coward and incoherent. Maintaining a prudent line which made the government refuse to supply British troops with shells. Prime Minister Wilfried Martens told the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives Saturday that Belgian navy ships in the Gulf would not take part in "direct attacks." Martens said the four Belgian ships in the Gulf, most of them mine-fighters, in case of a conflict, would only take part in mine-sweeping support operations or the evacuation of wounded or refugees.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
15:50	News summary
16:00	Local programme
16:05	Programme review
16:10	News in Arabic
16:15	Arabic series
16:20	Local programmes
16:25	Local programmes
16:30	News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	La Canorra
19:00	News in French
19:15	Weekly Sport magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	The Golden Girls
21:10	The Keepers
22:00	News in English
22:30	Derris

PRAYER TIMES

05:11	Fajr
06:32	(Sunrise) Duha
11:45	Dhuhr
14:53	Asr
16:57	Maghreb
18:18	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich	Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.	63785
St. Joseph Church Tel.	634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	637440
De la Salle Church Tel.	661757
Terranova Church Tel.	62266
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	63541
Anglican Church Tel.	625383
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.	811295
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.	775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel.	771751
Armenian International Church Tel.	685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.	811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel.	815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold and partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm seas.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	2 / 10
Aqaba	9 / 20
Deserts	2 / 9
Jordan Valley	9 / 19

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 99 per cent, Aqaba 39 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Asbaw	886993
Dr. Adel Ammar	871007
Dr. Issa Haddad	877007
Dr. Mahmoud Al Sheikh	603087
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	775336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	626772
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	640045
Shurciani pharmacy	637690

IRBID:	
Dr. Mazen Abu Baker	(—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy	273825
ZARQA:	
Dr. Tareq Hijawi	(—)
Khalid pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	866590
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230

Central Amman Telephone Repair	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repair	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Al-Sheikh Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	636140
Mahmud, J. Amman	661114
Palestine, Shmeisani	661114
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Munasher Hospital	6672719
The Islamic, Abdali	6612137
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	7771012
Al-Saadi, J. Asfarah	77511126
Army, Marfa	89161115
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50

Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)919171
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
18:00	Damascus (RJ)

18:15	Riyadh (RJ)
18:20	Dhahran (RJ)
18:30	Cairo (RJ)
18:35	Sanaa, Jeddah (RJ)
18:40	Larnaca (RJ)
18:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:50	Cairo (RJ)
18:55	Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
19:00	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:15	London (RJ)
19:20	Aqaba (RJ)
19:30	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
19:35	Istanbul (RJ)
22:25	Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:20	Sanaa (LF)
18:35	Cairo (MS)
18:40	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
18:50	Paris (AF)
18:55	Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

12:00	Cairo (RJ)
12:30	New York, Montreal (RJ)
13:15	Frankfurt (RJ)
14:15	Moscow (RJ)
14:15	Istanbul (RJ)
16:30	Aqaba (RJ)
17:15	Doha (RJ)
20:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00	Cairo (RJ)
21:30	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:00	Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:15	Beirut (ME)
11:10	Frankfurt (LH)
14:05	Cairo (MS)
14:40	Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
01:25	Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper

Where the hacks are eager to fly

Journalists want to be in Baghdad but things are not necessarily going their way, Mariam Shahin reports

AMMAN — Most foreign journalists have left or are leaving Baghdad and some are even preparing to depart from Jordan as the Jan. 15 United Nations Security Council deadline for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait is only a day away.

Fearing that Baghdad and possibly Jordan could be "attacked" if fighting should erupt, some journalists are bowing out of the "media war" which they themselves have helped to create since Aug. 2. Professional considerations, corporate policies and insurance problems are all part of the current media dilemma of whether "to go to Baghdad, stay there or here or not to do so. But some media people say it is simply a question of whether covering this conflict from the war front is a story worth dying for."

So, who is staying in Baghdad? Who is going? Why? Or why not?

For the most part, the major American television networks are still there while many major European networks have relocated "for the moment" to Amman. The close to half a dozen Japanese network crews are reportedly leaving Baghdad around Jan. 16 to relocate also to Amman till further notice.

While most print journalists who are still in Baghdad are booked on packed planes returning to Jordan, news agency writers and television agencies, such as World Television Network (WTN) and Visnews, are staying on to file their reports. Most, if not all journalists, covering the crisis from Amman or other places will undoubtedly rely on these agency reports for their reporting and analysis.

According to most Western journalists "access in Baghdad is not so easy" and many say they can almost "cover the stories from here."

TV is favoured
Having to wait days, weeks

and sometimes months for a visa to Iraq, the ministry of information in Baghdad has in fact discouraged many print and radio journalists from covering the story from the Iraqi front. So, as one European print journalist put it, "I have a good excuse for not going."

Indeed complaints by print and radio journalists that they are discriminated against in favour of the "television mafia" by the Iraqi ministry of information, which decides who gets a visa and who does not, have been rampant since the crisis began nearly six months ago.

"All the Iraqis care about is television," claimed one angry journalist working for a major European newspaper who has been waiting for weeks to get a visa.

Why stay?

While some see the continued presence of some (and they are a few) Western television networks in Iraq as a sign that "there will be no war, because the Americans will have an idea when it will 'boom,'" others feel differently.

"Even if Iraq or Baghdad is hit, the American network and agency networks will want it on film. What good is hitting Baghdad if you can't show it on TV? Asked one obvious fan of 'realpolitik' who works for a network agency who will stay in Baghdad far beyond Jan. 15.

While at least the four major American channels (ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN) intend to stay on in Baghdad until they are told "to pull out" by their network chiefs back home, most European and Japanese networks are weighing their possible losses.

For the most part, networks are scheduled to decide about the fate of their teams in Baghdad "sometime today or tomorrow."

tomorrow. At least one team from each BBC, Dutch, French and Spanish televisions is still in Iraq, according to their colleagues in Amman.

All flights out of Baghdad are fully booked and many journalists, as well as television and radio networks, have already made several travel plans and arranged for journeys by car to leave Jordan in case it is drawn into the conflict.

While most western European, Japanese and other television networks and journalists have opted for an "Amman bureau" from which they can monitor agency reports and footage coming out of Baghdad, some feel that Amman could be as dangerous as Baghdad if war breaks out. According to a random survey by the Jordan Times, however, those journalists planning to leave Jordan soon are still a small minority.

The insurance crisis

Several networks and newspapers as well as radio stations have complicated insurance policies to follow for their full-time employees and thus most try to "get out of the insurance thing" in order to avoid "unnecessary expenses," according to a number of freelance journalists currently working out of Amman.

"They send us, freelancers, in because they want to see what is going on in Baghdad and it looks good for the ratings," said one freelancer working for an American network. "But our lives are worth nothing because they are often not required to insure us for our lives," he added.

Many non-Western freelancers and contract correspondents camera-men and sound technicians have also complained that the networks and newspaper syndicates are less "worried about risking the lives of non-Americans and non-Europeans in the conflict."

"We are willing to go to Baghdad, but give us the same gas masks that you give our American colleagues and give us the same insurance policy protection and we will do your dirty work for you," said one non-American "contract correspondent."

Backing the claim that networks often discriminate against not only freelancers but also against non-Europeans and non-Americans, one European said he was greatly disturbed by the treatment by his network of a Lebanese female colleague. "While the 'nationals' get gas masks she does not," he told the Jordan Times.

"It's clearly a question of racism," said the correspondent. "The message was that she is not one of us so she is dispensable."

"We are told to act professionally and walk in there, no masks, no insurance, nothing," said one freelancer. "But I think in this case it's the networks being unprofessional."

Many Arabs, Africans and non-Western Europeans have clearly said that racism is involved in the behaviour of some major American and European networks.

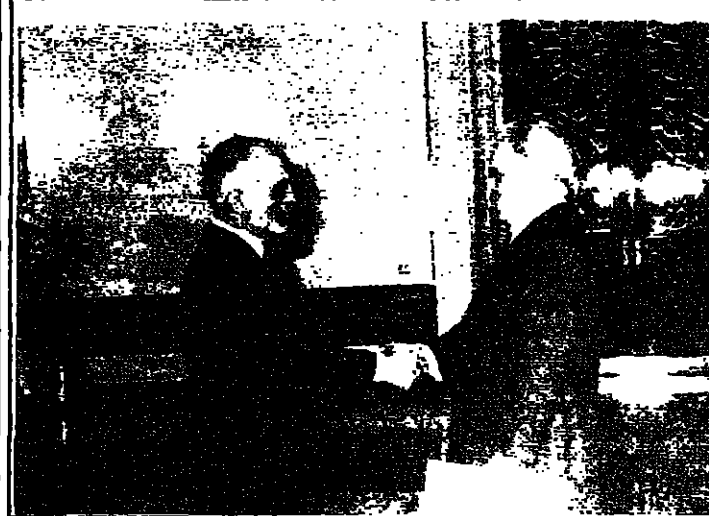
"The racism that has surfaced in the media world is directed against the very people who help them get the scoop and who risk their lives to prove themselves. This has undermined the causes of the current crisis," one veteran media observer said.

"Journalists from the Third World, southerners or whatever you want to call them are getting the raw end of the deal and that's of course the reason we have the Gulf crisis today," said one Western analyst in summing up the "media crisis."

"This is because some people got the raw end of the deal for damn too long and said 'hell I won't take it anymore,'" he continued.



KING RECEIVES CREDENTIALS — Two newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan Sunday presented their credentials to His Majesty King Hussein at separate ceremonies held at Raghadan Palace. (Above) is Ambassador A. Percy Sherwood of Canada who succeeds Michael Bell who ended his duty in Amman in September. (Below) is Dr. Heinrich Reimers of West Germany who succeeds Herwig Bartels who had served as Bonn's ambassador here since 1985. Attending the two ceremonies were Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh as well as chief chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid.



King discusses Gulf crisis with Yemeni president and Gandhi

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday conferred on the phone with former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on the Gulf crisis and the need to reach a peaceful settlement to it.

The King paid tribute to the great efforts made by Gandhi and his group, which includes a number of politicians, to reach a peaceful settlement.

Saturday the King received a telephone call from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who discussed with him the Gulf crisis and the efforts being made to find a peaceful settlement to it.

Badran addresses Senate

Jordan readies full capabilities to deal with any emergency

AMMAN (J.T.) — While Jordan is going ahead with its relentless efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and avert a devastating war, it is also making full preparedness to deal with any emergency should war break out, Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced Sunday.

The Jordanian government is maintaining its contacts at the Arab and international levels to guarantee a peaceful solution; and it is hoped that these efforts will bear fruit, said the prime minister in an address to the Upper House of Parliament.

We hope that the efforts being exerted by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Baghdad in addition to those being made by a group of world politicians, who are now commuting between Baghdad and other capitals of the world, would narrow the gap to reach common ground for a successful solution, Badran said.

Regardless of the talk about peace, Jordan is fully prepared for the worst, and has completed its defensive preparations at all levels, said the prime minister.

"We are not going to allow anyone to penetrate Jordanian territory and will resist any such

by European nations, the prime minister noted. He said that Jordan does not consider Jan. 15 as the date for starting a war because peaceful efforts are continuing. But, it should be noted that the present crisis, engaging Jordan and the world at large is the most dangerous yet, he said.

Jordan does not support the idea of dealing with the Gulf crisis through military action now being considered to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions, while resolutions concerning Palestine lie dormant since 1948, Badran said.

Dealing with the two problems differently, prompts everyone to believe that there is injustice in the international legality and the so-called new international world order, the prime minister added.

In referring to the sufferings that would ensue in the event of war, he said that the whole world civilisation was based on the Gulf oil which in a war scenario would be disrupted for at least 15 years bringing about immeasurable damages to the world ecology and the world economy.

Badran quoted experts as saying that in a Gulf war there would not be sufficient means of

Parliament appeals for Saddam-Fahd summit

Following the session, members of parliament appealed to the leaders of Iraq and Saudi Arabia to meet urgently to resolve their differences over Kuwait and remove the threat of a divisive war in the Arab World.

Both chambers of parliament sent messages to President Saddam Hussein and King Fahd, calling on them to resolve the dispute in a brotherly spirit without non-Arab involvement.

"Uplifting the fuse of war through your meeting in these decisive moments of our (Arab) Nations' history," the Lower House said. "Save our land from the destructions of war."

The Upper House appeal said resolution of the dispute by King Fahd and President Saddam would "put an end to plots carried out by foreign enemies" to "divide and subjugate the Arab World."

The Upper House made a separate appeal to Arab and Muslim countries with forces ranged against Iraq to withdraw from the alliance.

It said it was not logical "that the weapons in your hands be pointed at the chests of your brothers in Arabism and Islam."

Labour unions show solidarity with Iraqis

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The central council of the Federations of Jordanian Labour Unions sent 150 representatives to Iraq to voice their appeal for peace in the region, and to show solidarity with the people and children of Iraq.

The representatives, who left Jordan Saturday, will meet with members of federations of labour unions from Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco currently in Iraq. The World African labour unions have organised the dispatch of the second peace ship "Balgis" that is carrying food and medicine for Iraq. This ship, a donation from the Arab North African countries, is scheduled to arrive at the port of Basra on Jan. 15th.

"This march is a show of solidarity with the people of Iraq," Ayes Salim, member of the central council told the Jordan Times. He added that during their stay in Iraq, representatives of the Jordanian labour unions will meet with high government officials and representatives of the Iraqi labour unions who are organising a festival Tuesday.

"The representatives might meet President Saddam if he has time to confer with them," Salim said.

Asked whether the participants in the march were taking a risk by going to Iraq on the 15, the date that the United Nations Security Council has set to use force against Iraq if it did not withdraw from Kuwait, Salim said, "the representatives went ahead knowing their risks involved to show solidarity with the people and workers of Iraq, even if it meant that they would be present there on the 15."

He also added that the march itself was organised beforehand to coincide with the United Nations date, to prove that "we are concerned about this case," he said.

The 150 representatives are also carrying their own contribution of food and medicine to the Iraqi people.

"We have collected close to JD 5,000 in donations and we bought with them food and medicine to take to Iraq," Salim said.

The representatives are expected to be back from Iraq on the 16.

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Transport Minister Moshe Katsav said Israel had shown great restraint during the Gulf crisis in view of repeated Iraqi threats to strike at Israel first if it was attacked by U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf.

"We even declared that we would not start a war with Iraq despite those declarations. But it is impossible to demand from us not to respond if we are attacked. And Iraq must bear all the damage and all the significance of an attack on Israel," Katsav said.

Syria warned Sunday that Israel should not retaliate if Iraq carries out its threat.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa told a joint news conference with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Damascus Saturday that such an Iraqi attack, if it came, would be designed solely to transform the Gulf crisis into an Arab-Israeli confrontation.

"In this case, it is meant to reshuffle the cards and therefore

Jordan gets German aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath have received private donations of food and medical supplies due to requests they made personally to H.R.H. Markraf of Baden and H.H. Prince Emanuel von Hohenzollern.

The medical donations comprising of substantial quantities of insulin syringes, antibiotics and medical instruments were sent to the people of Jordan from Germany — AID Baden (a charitable organization headed by the Markraf of Baden) and will be distributed by the Ministry of Health.

A large donation of food from "the Order of the Knights of Maels" headed by Prince Emanuel von Hohenzollern has also been received by their royal highnesses and distributed to needy families in the different governorates of the Kingdom through the office of the Crown Prince and the Queen Alia Fund.

Pressed by reporters if he ruled out that option, Arens said: "I think my response was sufficient."

After meeting Eagleburger for three hours Saturday night, Shamir scheduled another round of talks Sunday.

The Israeli army is distributing gas masks to its citizens to help them cope with chemical attacks. Israel said it was to conduct civil defence exercises in Tel Aviv area on Sunday night.

Thousands of foreigners crowded Ben-Gurion airport, filing evacuation flights after the United States and Britain joined other countries in advising their citizens to leave Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A fundamentalist Islamic movement in the occupied territories urged Muslims Saturday to sabotage U.S. interests and those of its Gulf allies.

Also, a senior military officer warned Palestinians that the army would apply the rules of war against them if they disrupted operations during a war with Iraq.

Kilani outlines steps in support of Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani Sunday returned home from Baghdad where he took part in an Islamic conference which concluded in the Iraqi capital Friday.

In an arrival statement Kilani said that the conference had unanimously adopted a number of resolutions aimed at supporting Iraq against any aggression by America and its allies.

The conference approved a decision considering any aggression against Iraq as aggression against all Muslims. If such an aggression takes place, then holy war (Jihad) will be binding on all Muslims, and Iraq will not be alone in the battle, Kilani said.

He added that the conference called on all Arab and Muslim leaders to apply Islamic law and to stand by Iraq in its battle against foreign forces. The conference noted that inter-Arab disputes should be solved by Arabs alone because Arabs are qualified to settle their differences by themselves.

The conference approved a ruling that it was not permissible to seek assistance from non-Muslims to fight Muslims, and noted that it is not in line with the Holy Koran or Hadith (the Prophet's traditions) to seek the assistance of non-Muslim to fight a Muslim brother.

Alawneh looks into ways to aid farmers, engineers

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Mohammad Alawneh Sunday discussed with directors of the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation and the Jordan Valley Farmers Federation a number of issues relevant to agricultural credit policies and agricultural services offered to farmers. The subject of unifying all agricultural credit corporations in one governmental or non-governmental organisation was also reviewed.

The minister also discussed the possibility of setting up a public corporation for agricultural services, which, once established, would be in charge of providing loans and other needs of farmers at cost price.

Alawneh stressed the need on the part of the government to prepare and approve an integrated agricultural policy, to be implemented by the ministry in cooperation with all institutions concerned.

Also Sunday, the minister met with president and members of the Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association (JAEA) and discussed with them issues pertaining to unemployment among agricultural engineers.

The minister said the ministry will grant special allowances to all agricultural engineers working in various parts of Jordan. The JAEA President Ghaleb Abu Irabi reviewed the problems facing agricultural engineers, noting that the number of unemployed agricultural engineers stands at 600.

He suggested that such engineers undergoing military service (conscription) be employed at agricultural corporations after completing the three month military training period.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Seismological centre set up at Yarmouk U.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) established a seismological centre at Yarmouk University to be included in the national seismological network. The station will monitor the seismological activity in northern Jordan and the neighbouring areas. The centre will also observe the main geological structure containing natural resources such as minerals and underground heat resources.

Sales of mineral oils go up in 1990

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. sales of oils increased by 9 per cent in 1990 compared to the previous year, according to the company's sources. The sources attributed the increase to the good quality of the products and their competitive prices.

Deputies approve economic law, accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday voted 32 to 28 to convene a secret session to hear Prime Minister Mudar Badran speak on the current situation in the Gulf and Jordan's stand and preparedness in the event of war.

Before closing the session the House passed a law that establishes a public investment body, the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC).

According to the law the JIC will handle the government investment in shareholding companies and the pension fund investments.

The House also passed an agreement with the French government by which the latter provides Jordan with a 25 million French franc easy loan to be settled over 15 years.

Abu Nowar explains CSC functions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) follows a set of procedures in filling vacant posts at government offices, with attention given to those with the right qualifications for the job, and appointments all take place fairly with opportunities given to all applicants, according to CSC President Mohammad Saeed Abu Nowar.

The CSC takes into consideration also fair competition for any job and the need to distribute jobs in accordance with geographic locations, said Abu Nowar at a meeting with a parliament team examining the CSC's work.

The team, chaired by Jamal Khreisha, chairman of the administrative committee in the Lower House of Parliament, discussed with Abu Nowar conditions and terms for appointment in public offices and government departments.

Abu Nowar said that the CSC and the Institute of Public Administration together set the guidelines for selecting persons for government offices in accordance with the sets of regulations.

Jordan InterContinental looks for excellence.

Nothing less than excellent services, derived from the original Arab traditions. Annab-Tsutsumi: Jordan InterContinental's service is of the same calibre that offered by the InterContinental Hotel Group worldwide.

His Excellency Mr. Ziyad Annab/Chairman of the board of Jordan Hotels and Tourism Co. Ltd and owners of Hotel Jordan InterContinental, together with Mr. Yuji Tsutsumi/Chairman of the board of Saison Overseas (Holdings) BV., owners of InterContinental Hotels group worldwide, commended the hotel for its continued commitment to high standards of quality service.

They went on to state that the standards of customer care were in the very best traditions of Arabic hospitality and that the Hotel Jordan InterContinental service is fully comparable with that offered by the InterContinental Hotels Group worldwide.

Mr. Majeed Khalil/General Manager of Hotel Jordan InterContinental, on behalf of the hotel's family thanked both chairmen for their support and good wishes.

Under the visionary leadership of the Japanese Corporation, the hotel is benefiting from greater support for Jordan as a tourist attraction.

Although the large influx of journalists contributed to the volume of business in the last five months of 1990, Mr. Raymond Khalife, the Senior Vice President of InterContinental Hotels for the Middle East and Africa, pointed out that the hotel had been exceeding its budgets for the first seven months of last year as well.

Both chairmen in their message to the staff of the hotel wished peace and prosperity to Jordan and continued progress under the wise leadership of H.M. King Hussein.

Jordan Times

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Need to be prepared

WHETHER WAR is on or off it is only rational that the country's civil defence capabilities be stepped up for any eventuality. It took an event the magnitude of the Gulf crisis to awaken Jordan to the need for better preparedness for war. As a matter of fact with the Israeli military threat being what it is, Jordan's civilians should always be better prepared for any emergency or eventuality. It is comforting that Jordan has established a Higher Council of Civil Defence with the specific mandate of organising and synchronising all national efforts in civil defence operations.

The remaining question is why it took the government so long to involve the people in the necessary training for any war situation. Given the fact that Jordan has literally been in a state of alert since the eruption of the Kuwait situation, one wonders why the degree of national preparedness in civil defence was only belatedly felt by our authorities. Perhaps there is no need for gas masks, for example, because it is felt that Jordan is not likely to be targeted with such weapons by any side, yet the country should have also discussed and debated such a scenario even if it is deemed remote by our military experts. Only recently Jordan television started screening ways for effective civil defence. It is ironic that such dissemination of vital information on civil defence is taking place only hours before the U.N. deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait expires. Most Jordanians would still be taken by surprise should armed hostilities break out in the Gulf region and spread to the rest of the Middle East and would not know what to do about it. Even the most basic information on civil defence is still wantonly lacking. It is regrettable that prior to the school break for the winter holidays no effort whatsoever was made to educate children on even rudimentary civil defence procedures.

But better late than never. The concerned authorities are now in full gear doing all they can to start the process of appropriate civil defence for the entire country. The idea of establishing committees in various ministries is also a step in the right direction. It stands to reason that any effective civil defence operations must be multi-disciplinary. The Civil Defence Department (CDD) can still spearhead such multifaceted efforts given its wide experience in such endeavours. Amman has always been optimistic that war will never occur in the Gulf region. That sense of optimism stems from Jordan's inner conviction that man can never descend to the level of waging war when war is not necessary. Jordanians will cling to this faith in man's sanctity till they are proven wrong. The next few days, however, would either vindicate us or prove us wrong. In either case, civil defence is something over which none of us can gamble.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT is premature to predict the outcome of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's visit to Baghdad although the U.N. chief had expressed optimism over his Baghdad mission, said Al Rai' Arabic daily Sunday. But one can only wonder if such a mission will succeed in the light of the hostile activities on the part of the foreign secretaries of Britain and the United States which aim at sabotaging de Cuellar's bid to end the crisis in the Gulf by peaceful means, the paper noted. Both London and Washington are beating the drums of war, escalating tension and ignoring Iraq's demand for a settlement to the Palestine problem on equal footing with the Gulf crisis, the paper said. Needless to say that de Cuellar's mission depends largely on what the U.N. chief is presenting to the Iraqi president... who does not object to a settlement to the Gulf crisis if the United Nations is ready to deal with other crisis by the same criteria, the paper added. De Cuellar should realise, said the paper, that settling the Arab-Israeli dispute and ending the Palestine problem concerns the United Nations organisation which is under obligation to implement its own resolutions as it is now doing in the case of the Gulf crisis and the Security Council resolutions taken in that regard. It said that de Cuellar realises too well that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are occupied territories and that Israel has rejected all United Nations resolutions calling for a withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab lands. But it should be noted at the same time, the paper continued, that the Iraqi leaders will no doubt listen carefully to the U.N. chief because they are seriously concerned with peace not war and the beating of drums by London and Washington can by no means prevent the U.N. mission from attaining success if it is based on right and justice.

It is Iraq's right to launch an attack on Israel in the event of a foreign attack on Iraqi territory as has been declared openly by the Iraqi leaders, says columnist Mahmoud Rimawi Sunday. By waging a military strike against Israel, Iraq will be implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions which call for Israel to pull out its forces from the occupied Arab territories. Since the United States and its allies are basing their threat and directing their forces against Iraq to force it to pull out from Kuwait, the Arabs have all the right to force Israel to withdraw from occupied Palestine by the same standard and criteria, says the writer. Again, in the event of a U.S. attack on Iraq, the Iraqi leadership has the full right to conclude that Israel is an accomplice in that aggression since it is America's strategic ally, a fact that has been corroborated in the Israeli wars against the Arabs since 1956, says Rimawi. He notes that in any attack on Iraq the Americans must surely base their logistics and other considerations on the help they get from the Jewish state, which in fact represents America's base in the Arab region. Iraq has the right to come to the aid of the Palestinians struggling to regain their freedom and has all the right to launch a pre-emptive strike on Israel to prevent the latter from attacking Iraqi targets, the writer stresses. He says Washington which has been supporting Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands over the past 23 years must expect that its strategic ally in the region will be targeted by Iraqi forces in the event of any war in the region.

Weekly Political Pulse

ONE wonders what are the real motives behind tightening the blockade on Jordan by all countries, its traditional allies. First came the clamp-down on Jordan's only sea outlet, the port of Aqaba. Ships to and from Aqaba are now regularly and systematically harassed by the champions of free navigation on the high seas. After so many months of interference in Jordan's shipping connection, Jordanian people have become stoic. It is viewed as a part of a bigger and broader picture depicting widespread gloom. So when the chips are down for the country and its people, is it the right time to punch holes in Jordan's national airline, Royal Jordanian, when it is the country's only remaining contact with the outside world, with the exception of one or two other airlines? Is it right to rejoice in the woes of Royal Jordanian and make false predictions that it is going under. For sure Royal Jordanian

has many problems. But these problems were inherited not made. It is selling planes to make ends meet. It is not making profits and can barely stand on its feet. But does such a state of health justify the call by some that it should be liquidated? How could it be sensible to ask, now of all times, when the country is besieged that an airline company that served the country and its people for decades should go? Instead of calling for the dismantling of an important Jordanian institution to which many Jordanians have contributed, would it not be better and wiser to offer some prudent prescription for correcting whatever malaise it may be suffering from? I for one would hate to see the demise of my country's national airline. I would rather predict that the wrongs in the company can still be rectified. I made it a point recently to check on RJ's situation.

I was told on good authority

that al is not bad with the airline. The figures cited portrayed a rosy picture than some would want us to believe. One does not need to be an economist to comprehend where the airline is heading. To begin with, there is hardly an airline in the world today which is not suffering. If two giant airlines, Pan Am and TWA, are contemplating merger in view of the dire economic conditions facing airlines worldwide, RJ cannot be blamed for worrying. The main objective now is to keep our airline afloat morally and materially. For this purpose it is imperative that one has a broad perspective of what RJ is all about. To begin with it is no ordinary airline established solely to make a profit. The airline's goals and objectives go beyond these considerations.

What we are talking about is an airline which is assuming burdens and responsibilities that go beyond the normal call

of duty. It is a fact that RJ is promoting tourism in the country and has incurred so many extraneous expenses for no other reason than to help out the tourism industry of Jordan.

How many folkloric activities has RJ assumed at a considerable expense to itself for the avowed purpose of promoting tourism and selling Jordan as a touristic attraction to the far reaches of the world? How many exhibitions and social and cultural events has the airline sponsored and borne the expenses of? RJ has been a cargo carrier for many Jordanian markets including agricultural markets at a time when Aqaba became blockaded by naval ships. If one chooses to scrutinise the company on the basis of raw economic terms, then a fair and balanced analysis is called for as well. The 1980s in Jordan have been characterised as years of a continuing recession. In 1988 the dinar underwent

drastic devaluation that made imports doubly expensive. Fuel costs went up a great deal for RJ because it had to pay for it in the depreciated currency.

Political instability in the region has haunted the airline right from the beginning. Considerable investment was made on its fleet in the early 80s yet the repayments on the loans to purchase them was somehow never reflected in the budgets of the golden era of the airline.

The payments on these loans have now accumulated at a time when, for political reasons beyond the control of the airline, the management cannot make them without support from the government. For the government to refrain from helping the airlines make the necessary payments now would mean the forfeiting of the payments already made on them. Besides, payments would not absolve the government from responsibility be-

cause it is the guarantor. The government made a wise decision to rescue Petra Bank to the tune of JD 250 million. Why it is now unwilling to help RJ face the formidable economic difficulties it is now facing for no fault of its own? Suffice to recall that RJ was projected to more than break even in 1990. Then came Aug. 2, and everything changed. The Gulf crisis brought to a halt the tourism business and interrupted the normal flow of air traffic through Amman. It also caused insurance rates and fuel prices to reach new heights. It would seem utterly irresponsible to think now in terms of starting all over again and build a new airline under a new name. Jordan has invested so many years to build up the name and image of RJ to the extent that it has become respected worldwide. To start a new company now would mean that all the efforts of the last decades for RJ would go down the drain.

By Waleed Sadi

RJ deserves better

Better to persevere with sanctions than launch all-out war

By Paul H. Nitze and Michael F. Stafford

plies would be threatened once more.

Finally, a well executed attack on Iraq could sharply set back its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction, but also create problems elsewhere in the region. The crisis has already had this effect: the Saudis, for example, are reported to be seeking to buy a nuclear weapon. The increased regional instability after a war could only heighten these incentives.

In sum, the all-out war option seems highly counterproductive in the long term and certainly not worth the thousands of lives it would cost. Much more promising is continued reliance on sanctions.

First, successful sanctions would be most likely to produce a stable world order. Critical to this outcome is that a substantially lower level of violence would be more likely to result in continued public support for an active U.S. international role.

Second, this option would likely be less disruptive to regional stability. Any approach that left much of Iraq's military

capability intact would produce a need to retain a peacekeeping force on the front lines, either in Kuwait or in Saudi Arabia, and perhaps elsewhere. While internal destabilisation in other countries of the region would remain a concern, this threat would be lower than that produced by all-out war, especially if the peacekeeping force were primarily Arab.

Third, although oil supplies would remain uncertain, America would be better able to reduce its vulnerability to disruption of those supplies. The key is the U.S. strategic petroleum reserve, which provides an assured source of oil that can be used to make up supply shortfalls or dampen price increases that an unfriendly state might ask to impose.

The reserve already holds almost 600 million barrels, enough to increase market supply by more than 3 million barrels a day (more than the United States imports from all Arab OPEC members) for as long as six months. For about \$15 billion, or a fraction of the estimated cost of a prompt, all-out war, Washington could increase the reserve to the 1

billion barrels recommended by most experts. In the longer term, Washington could impose an oil tariff to induce conservation (while also generating revenues) and reverse cutbacks in development of alternative energy sources.

Finally, the key to halting proliferation in the region lies not merely with what America does in this immediate crisis but rather in a sustained campaign among potential suppliers to cut off sources of critical materials and technical cooperation. Successful sanctions would be most likely to encourage such a campaign, but they must be supplemented by provisions for continued inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency and additional U.N. inspections to ensure that supplies remain stemmed.

On all counts, therefore, sanctions — supplemented by air strikes if necessary — promise to serve U.S. interests better than a prompt, all-out war.

Some argue that the threat of all-out war is the key element in the U.S. approach — a weapon in itself — and that Saddam must be convinced that the use of overwhelming

force is imminent before he will back down. Arguments that question the all-out war option, they contend, undermine that strategy. But the momentum toward such a war, whose results threaten to be so costly, may have become dangerously irreversible. War may occur whether it serves U.S. purposes or not.

For the past generation, Americans have regretted that in Vietnam they let the passions of the moment and a lack of healthy scepticism toward presidential claims obscure clearheaded assessments of national interests. The result was that Washington was driven into a costly, divisive and ultimately counterproductive expansion of a war that lacked adequate public support. Let's not spend the next generation wondering how we came to repeat that mistake.

Mr. Nitze served in the Reagan administration as special adviser on arms control. Mr. Stafford is executive director of the Centre for Science and International Affairs at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. They contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

A gathering sense of futility in the Gulf

By Roger Morris

SANTA FE, New Mexico — While the timetable clicks on inexorably in the Gulf, there is a gathering sense of irrelevance about the stark option to which Washington is reduced. Neither war nor a last-minute diplomatic device will resolve the deeper issues that have brought us to this bleak rendezvous in the desert.

Whatever the outcome in Geneva, the administration's choices between battle and backing down betray an underlying futility — and thus carry the seeds of future crisis.

Neither military action or a status-quo ante peace will remedy the incipient turmoil of Arabia, where the vast disparity between rich and poor creates bitter conflict within and among states, where a U.S. "victory" by arms or ultimatum will only strengthen belligerent forces such as Iran and Syria while hastening anti-American upheavals.

Nor can Washington bomb or negotiate away the malignant oil dependence of Europe, Japan and the United States, which makes this episode such a reckoning on past negligence. No smart weapons or shrewd bargains will alter the caprice of petroleum politics or the inequities inflicted by the oil market on poor countries.

Just as some showdown with Saddam Hussein need not release the resources needed for development and social peace in the Middle East, it will waste precious billions amid a deepening economic agony in the United States.

Nothing in George Bush's strategy promises a creative initiative on the anachronistic Israeli-Palestinian conflict, at once symbol and substance of

the larger crisis. No success now envisioned by the White House, whether through blood or through bluster, purges that poison, and any success will probably only deepen it.

Least of all do President Bush's options genuinely serve the heralded new world order, the beckoning image of a post-cold war consortium of nations in which the president has wrapped his venture and for which thousands of Americans may soon die.

With its preponderance of U.S. forces in front of token, rear-guard allies, the martial assembly in the Gulf may be the precedent for future Punic expeditions by the Pentagon but scarcely for a new peacekeeping coalition.

Washington's corridor cajolery and economic-political blackmail, simply to gather resolutions and fig-leaf contingents, have hardly lent fresh legitimacy to the United Nations. In its reflexive resort to Great Power extortion, the White House squandered an opportunity for authentic progress toward multilateral responsibility in a new era.

It is not merely that American men and women constitute a de facto mercenary force for the Germans, Japanese, Saudis and Gulf sheikhs, or that the Soviets, Chinese and others are absent. Just as national units of the Gulf force cannot even talk to one another effectively in the field, Western diplomacy has been fractured. The European Community, like the Arabs before them, is trying desperately to mount a mediation behind Washington's posturing and media polemics.

The Gulf alliance reflects a sadly outmoded concept of collective security. There is no true collection of interests, no

secure understanding of the irrelevance of both the old violence and the old diplomacy in a vastly changed international landscape.

No lesson taught to the Iraqis seems likely to correct the deep-seated irresponsibility of the regime in Washington. Nothing will erase the fateful prelude to crisis: a United States that armed and subsidised Iraq for a variety of wanton purposes; failed for bureaucratic reasons to try to deter aggression months before it happened; ignored multiple warnings of invasion and left its unalarmed citizens to become hostages.

On the eve, the administration all but diplomatically acceded to the Iraqi attack. Then, in propaganda extraordinary even by the usual standards of political hypocrisy, it sought to incite both national idealism and native chauvinism by labelling its recent client another Hitler.

Imagine the alternatives: a United States that had not cynically armed one more dictator not rendered itself an energy hostage in the greed of the 1980s; a Washington no longer culpable in profiteering and inequity in world resources; a president dedicated to statesmanlike lifting of the Arab-Israeli curse with genuine international initiative; a world in which 400,000 Americans need not be in the Gulf, because a principled foreign policy was there before them.

Instead, it is to the Bush administration — without effective check or balance because of the foreign policy abdication of Congress — that America and the rest of the world will still be prey, whatever happens in the next few weeks. Perhaps that is what

makes Washington's expected victory in the Gulf already so Pyrrhic.

The ultimate irony is that the crisis presents a chance to deal with fundamental challenges of the post-cold war world. In the grim concentration of international attention, these last days of peace afford an opportunity such as no other in this century, and a singular moment for American statesmanship.

A comprehensive and far-sighted American peace effort would begin with authentic negotiations with Baghdad, not to reward aggression but to see it in proportion and to look beyond to ethnic, territorial and economic grievances dating to the Ottoman Empire. Iraq would be given equitable national treatment on disputed petroleum and access to the Gulf. Kuwaiti sovereignty would be restored under U.N. auspices, with an end to predatory oil practices.

U.S. and allied armies would be withdrawn in favour of U.N. buffer forces. The price of Iraq's violence would be the dismantling of its threatening arsenal, although this would be part of a larger regional settlement in which concessions would be security for all sides.

Washington would let the European Community take the lead on the Palestinian issue, recognising the Europeans' stake and credibility as well as setting a precedent for shared responsibility. Simultaneously, every resource of U.S. diplomacy would be applied to forging a united Arab commitment to settlement, to ridding Israel of its indispensable enemy by pan-Arab militarisation, on the model of Mikhail Gorbachev's arms initiatives toward the United States.

To Israel the United States would pledge, by a joint resolution of Congress, that any invasion of its pre-1967 territory (excluding Gaza) would be equivalent to an attack on the United States, requiring full U.S. defence. The United States would urge the United Nations, and particularly the Soviet Union to join it. But with or without their participation, the American commitment would be unequivocal.

If Israel failed to join promptly in European-sponsored negotiations, it would be the U.S. position that America's principled support does not extend to mutual suicide and that Israel would be economically sanctioned, like any other international obstructor.

To the Palestinians the United States would pledge its matching commitment to the establishment and integrity of a sovereign state on West Bank and Gaza, in return for an immediate end to the intifada and prompt settlement negotiations. As with Israel, Palestinian hostilities under any guise would bring new, U.S.-sponsored international sanctions.

Washington would lead a world consortium to provide special aid to Jordan, and technical and educational assistance to Palestine, enabling them to gain their peaceful equilibrium.

Civil rights of Arab citizens in Israel and Jewish citizens in Palestine, along with the multi-cultural status of Jerusalem, would be enforced by the United Nations, a first act of the new world order.

The United States and other wealthier nations would press for a new Middle East commonwealth — the ancient, concept of a shared land and re-

sources, economic and spiritual.

A regional development bank would equitably redistribute from rich Arab nations to poor, away from chaos toward equity and vested interests in peace. The United States would support a Middle Eastern community, Arab and Jew, no less than it supported European unity, and for similar historical reasons.

An ongoing Middle East demilitarisation conference, nuclear and conventional, would be convoked by U.S. leadership through the United Nations, on the principle of "trust but verify," with international inspection of all states. Regional arms control would parallel U.S.-Soviet-European arms reductions.

The White House would launch at home a programme for energy diversification and alternative fuels, aimed not only at domestic realignment but also at international conservation, conversion, and planetary management of scarce resources, environmental hazards and imbalances in development. That, not the anachronistic and unavailing punishment of Iraq, would give meaning to the words "new," "world" and "order."

If only the rhetorical fictions of politics, the false practicalities and irrelevant experiences did not impede such a breakthrough. If only an American president, letting a petty dictator claim what he will in a small corner, could move confidently beyond to build a legitimate peace and receive his own rightful credit.

The writer was a staff member of the National Security Council in the Johnson and Nixon administrations. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

King

(Continued from page 1)

be plunged into disastrous affairs that would last many, many years," the King said.

King Hussein said that Washington had not provided a promised \$2 billion to \$2.5 billion in aid to support economic sanctions against Iraq.

He said Jordan had complied with the sanctions.

King Hussein said he disagreed with a statement by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that Iraqi troops would be reluctant to fight a ground war without air power behind them.

"I do not agree with him on this point," King Hussein said. "I think that people will defend their territory to the best of their ability and they will be extremely determined."

Saying the Gulf problem was both an Arab and international one, the King said he had "secured in the first 48 hours (of the crisis) an Iraqi commitment to withdraw from Kuwait," and to attend a conference on Middle East issues, but that others did not "keep up with the agreement."

In reply to a question the approach of U.S. President George Bush to the crisis, the King said:

"I cannot certainly speak for the president, but I certainly have had some very strange language throughout this crisis. Yet on the other hand, I do think that I was correct when from the beginning when I predicted that the language of threats and intimidation will not produce the desired results. I still think that there is a chance and we are going to do everything we can to avert war if given the chance. After all, I don't believe in very wild dreams that anybody can be happy about the prospect of thousands and thousands of people dying and other suffering in and the disaster occurring on such a magnitude."

Details

(Continued from page 1)

The five members of the Security Council would then issue a statement pledging that Iraq will not be attacked.

Immediately following this step Iraq would start its withdrawal from Kuwait to be replaced by United Nations forces which will oversee the return of the emir of Kuwait and the holding of what was described by the source as "some form of self-expression by Kuwaiti citizens." The source insisted that the word "elections" was not mentioned at this point.

Simultaneously the economic sanctions against Iraq would be lifted, but military sanctions would remain in place for at least another six months.

Following the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the president of the U.N. Security Council would issue a statement calling for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East "at the earliest convenient time."

A call to start negotiations for the disarmament of "chemical, biological and nuclear" weapons from the region would be issued by the Security Council at the same time.

The sources said that the emir of Kuwait had given his approval for the part of the plan which allows for his re-

turn to his country, and allowing the "self-expression" to take place.

The sources also added that the U.S. had officially accepted the different elements of the peace plan as proposed by Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

Jalloud

(Continued from page 1)

In an arrival statement Jalloud, who will also visit Iraq, noted that the region is "currently facing a great challenge," and that the results of such challenge will affect the Arab region tremendously. "Therefore we either have to step forward or fall back, God forbid," Jalloud said.

"When Iraq took over Kuwait, some of us might have stood by or resisted this Iraqi step but following the entry of American and foreign forces into the Gulf, Arabs have no choice but to support Iraq against the foreign forces," he said.

Libya's position should a war break out in the Gulf, Jalloud said, will have to be decided by Libyan people's committees.

Jalloud called on all international forces, including the United States, to realise that the Gulf crisis is an inter-Arab affair which should be handled by the Arabs themselves.

Reports have suggested that a French-Arab initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis would be presented soon. The initiative is said to have been prepared by the Arab Maghreb Union and France.

Jalloud said he could not speak about details of the plan now.

He voiced hope that the Soviet Union would embark on an action to find a peaceful settlement to the crisis. He was referring to a decision adopted by the Soviet Parliament calling on President Mikhail Gorbachev to work towards finding a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Jalloud described the decision as an extremely important and an indicator of the Soviet leadership's interest in finding a peaceful settlement.

Qadhafi spoke on the telephone Saturday with French President Francois Mitterrand, Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

According to the Libya news agency JANA, "Qadhafi urged them to make a serious effort to save world peace and work to extract a positive stand from Iraq which will encourage the convening of an emergency and expanded Security Council in Geneva in which Middle East and Mediterranean basin countries take part."

JANA described Jalloud's trip as part of a "last attempt to save the people of Iraq and to spare the world the disaster of destruction."

Jalloud, before leaving Amman, said he discussed with King Hussein a Libyan peace initiative for the Gulf crisis which he said bore an "Arab outlook."

Asked if his plan was similar to that of the U.N. Secretary general, now in Baghdad, he said: "(Javier) Perez de Cuellar represents a moral authority but his initiative carries the ideas of the West and America."

"We are offering an initiative from an Arab outlook and our aim is to delay war as a first step to get it out from our political

thought."

"Our aim is to preserve the Iraqi forces and regime and to find an Arab solution," Jalloud told reporters.

The Libyan envoy said he had yet to fully discuss the initiative with other Arab leaders.

He said Libya would stand by Jordan's side in case it was attacked by Israel.

Hurd

(Continued from page 1)

settlement," he said, but he added: "This is not a subject in which Saddam Hussein has a particular role."

Hurd was received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

Before his departure from Amman, Hurd said he discussed with the King ways to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Hurd, before leaving for Ankara for another round of talks on the Gulf crisis, said his meeting with King Hussein, which he described as "very useful," had also focused on trying to achieve progress on the Palestinian issue.

"We spent some time considering the prospects for progress on the Arab-Israeli dispute which we both agreed should be tackled with great energy," Hurd said.

He said he had also discussed the region's "strategic and economic future" with King Hussein.

Hurd said that Britain believes that an international conference is a good vehicle for achieving a just and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. But, he said, there is need to prepare for such conference in which all main parties should be represented because such a conference holds a good chance for success.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is still unresolved after many years of conflict and the injustice that has befallen the peoples of the region still exists, Hurd said. He said that further efforts on the part of the world community are needed to solve the issue.

On Jordanian-British relations Hurd said that despite the fact that the two countries differ in their views on their analysis of the Gulf crisis, they maintain good relations and pursue dialogue on the issue which is very important for Britain.

Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

from this situation, which allows it to continue to occupy our lands and plot to expand."

Tuesday is the U.N. deadline for Iraq to give up Kuwait or face a possible military attack to drive it out.

Assad offered to send the Syrian army to act as a buffer force to protect Iraqi troops from American attack if Iraq decides to withdraw.

Saddam expressed a willingness to talk with Assad, but insisted the Iraqi army needed no protection and was ready to fight.

"I couldn't imagine that you like (Egyptian President) Hosni (Mubarak) and the others think that we need protection in order for our army to surrender. The Iraqi army is capable and ready to

defend Iraq and the honour of the nation," Saddam said.

"If you want to talk and define everybody's commitment, we are ready to do that in a correct way..." he said.

Saddam said if Assad joined the believers, "you will see the whole background of the issues in a different way and realise that the one who withdraws from the alliance of believers ... will crumble down."

He accused Mubarak of joining the anti-Arab coalition. "For a disgraceful down payment paid by the U.S., Washington forgave Egypt's \$7 billion military debts after it joined the anti-Iraq alliance."

INA quoted Saddam as telling Japanese Socialist leader Takako Doi and an accompanying delegation: "We believe that the way for security and stability in the region lies in giving Palestine back to its people and the Arabs all their usurped rights..."

"One standard should be followed, not two... it is then that we will feel safe and security and stability prevail in the region," Saddam was quoted as telling his Japanese visitors.

Saddam referred to Assad in the message as "Your Excellency" and as the president of the Syrian Arab Republic. He also said the Iraq-Syria rift was a lesson from the past and a "great test" for the Arab Nation to learn from.

Iraq warned Sunday it had surprise weapons which would astound its enemies and that tens of thousands of its foes would die even before reaching Iraqi defence lines.

"We will not be disclosing a secret when we say that Iraq's arsenal contains surprises which will astonish our enemies and fascinate our friends. This also applies to our military plan," the Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiya said.

It gave no details, but diplomats in Baghdad have in recent days said Iraq was likely to announce this week it had a new weapon of mass destruction.

Baghdad has successfully developed chemical weapons and medium-range weapons and is widely believed to have biological arms. It has threatened to reduce the Arabian Peninsula to ashes and to hit Israel first if attacked by the U.S. and allied forces.

"Victory in the mother of battles is granted in favour of Iraq and humanity," declared the daily newspaper Al Thawra.

"Iraq is able and ready to inflict a cruel defeat upon the masses of aggressors and their feeble agents," it said, adding that Iraq's confidence of victory was based on "practical and field calculations."

"When war breaks out, (U.S. President George) Bush and those running behind him like small dogs will find out that threatening war and beating its drums is something and going through it and the readiness to sacrifice is another thing," the daily Al Thawra said.

"It is difficult, if not impossible, to penetrate (Iraqi defences) before thousands or tens of thousands of American aggressors are killed on the way. The rest will be met by Iraq's heroes who will annihilate them," Al Qadisiya said.

Al Thawra also said the head of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd would be the first to roll if war broke out in the Gulf.

An article in Al Thawra said: "We must say that the heads of agents and traitors will be torn apart and flying as punishment for their disgraceful acts."

"At the forefront will be the head of the traitor of the two holy shrines who has become a symbol of moral and political decline..."

"The traitor of the two holy shrines" is a term Iraq recently coined as a reference to Fahd's official title as "the custodian of the two holy shrines" in Mecca and Medina.

De Michelis

(Continued from page 1)

an objective fact of the post-crisis period," the minister was quoted as saying at the provincial party rally.

"Nearly all the European countries, perhaps with the exception of Britain, are ready to set a date. France said so, Italy said so, and others will say so in these hours," he was quoted as saying by ANSA.

French contacts

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas held separate talks Sunday with senior emissaries from Egypt and Tunisia as part of a Franco-Arab search for a way to avert a Gulf war.

A day after he held talks in Morocco, Dumas received Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Boulare and then Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali.

France is widely seen as an influential player in last-minute diplomatic efforts to convince Iraq to leave Kuwait or face war after midnight Tuesday.

Boulare played down any suggestions of a Franco-Arab peace plan but said the two sides had a wide range of channels to exploit in the peace effort.

"The Arab countries working for peace continue to be optimistic until the last minute," Boulare told reporters.

Boulare said he saw an opening for peace in remarks by U.S. President George Bush suggesting that a commitment, at least, by Iraq to start pulling out of Kuwait before the Jan. 15 deadline could avert hostilities.

He described the remarks, made by Bush to reporters after U.S. congressmen voted to give the president powers to lead a multinational attack on Iraq, as "a window opened to hope."

Ghali said France and Egypt shared the same objectives in the Gulf crisis: "To find a peaceful solution to the crisis, ensure peace, but on condition that this conforms with resolutions of the U.N. Security Council."

Ghali described his talks with Dumas "extremely positive," adding that "there should be optimism between now and Jan. 15."

Diplomatic sources said the flurry of French contacts was to prepare for an immediate final diplomatic bid by Paris.

Such a move include a visit to Iraq by French President Francois Mitterrand, who is under increasing pressure at home from anti-war campaigners.

In Madrid, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez told a top PLO official Sunday that Iraq can still avert a Gulf war by withdrawing from Kuwait, Spanish officials said.

During a 15-minute meeting with Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, Gonzalez said that avoiding the outbreak of war in the Gulf should be the focus of all parties involved in the dispute, the officials said.

The officials, cited by several Spanish news outlets, said Gonzalez assured Kaddoumi that the United Nations embargo against Iraq would be lifted if Baghdad

made "a gesture" that showed he would comply with U.N. resolutions and pull out its troops.

Kaddoumi arrived in Spain Saturday and told reporters after a meeting with Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez that "hope should not be lost for a peaceful solution in the Gulf crisis."

In an interview published Sunday, Fernandez Ordonez told the Madrid daily El Mundo that Spain hoped for a negotiated end to the crisis.

"Better a poor settlement than a good war," he was quoted as saying.

U.N. chief

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met with Mr. Perez de Cuellar earlier in the day and told reporters later that there would not be war.

Mr. Aziz, who saw off Mr. Perez de Cuellar, did not make any comments to reporters.

But informed Arab diplomatic sources said the Iraqi leaders detected a noted shift in the approach adopted by the U.N. chief from the stand he displayed in talks with Mr. Aziz in September in Amman.

"He displayed more flexibility and it appears that he is trying to secure international consensus on the mounting rejection of war option," said one source. "This in itself is very much welcome."

Unlike his previous encounter with Mr. Aziz in Amman, Mr. Perez de Cuellar did not focus on the U.N. demand for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, but instead discussed "the Kuwaiti crisis and means of implementing the U.N. resolutions as well as resolving the Palestinian problem," the Arab diplomat told the Jordan Times.

"This is a new development although not necessarily very significant," he said. "It can be considered as an important starting point in the search for means to avert war."

In his airport comments, Perez de Cuellar was asked to describe his mood after his visit to Baghdad.

"I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic," he replied.

The U.N. chief said Saturday that he carried no specific proposals to Iraq but would discuss a wide range of issues ahead of Tuesday's U.N. deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait for face war.

The Arab diplomat said Arafat had received a call from Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, asking him to pave the way for a visit by a European Community (EC) delegation to Iraq before Tuesday.

Arafat said after their meeting that the U.N. chief had a "good chance" of solving the Gulf crisis peacefully.

But he added that the U.S. Congress's Saturday endorsement of military action in the Gulf may undermine Perez de Cuellar's efforts.

"I am surprised how the United States congress votes for war while the U.N. chief is here on a peace mission," Arafat told reporters.

The U.N. chief also met earlier with former Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega, who met Saturday night with Saddam.

Arafat told a news conference he did not believe war would erupt despite Tuesday's deadline.

"No war, no war, no war," Arafat said.

"There will not be a war. You can stay in Baghdad," he told

journalists.

Jordan's information minister, Ibrahim Izzeddine, told reporters in Amman that he was optimistic about Perez de Cuellar's mission in Baghdad and warned of a wave of anti-Western sentiment in the Arab World if war broke out.

"I think in all Arab states you are going to have anti-American and anti-Western feelings," he said.

The minister, asked whether he believed the anti-Iraq coalition would collapse if Israel became involved in the crisis even if it acted in self-defence, replied:

"I feel the Arabs are very emotional at this stage, very itchy. They fear a new wave of colonisation coming to the area and if you have an Israeli involvement then everything will change."

Perez de Cuellar was to arrive in Paris in the middle of the night and leave for New York after meeting Mitterrand, according to an announcement by the Elysee Palace.

Perez de Cuellar's meeting was set for 8:30 a.m. (0730 GMT). Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos was reported to be flying in to Paris for a morning meeting with the U.N. secretary general as well.

Luxembourg holds the six-month rotating presidency of the European Community (EC), and the 12 EC foreign ministers were to meet later Monday morning to discuss the Gulf crisis.

In other developments: U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Sunday delivered a letter from President George Bush to Turkish leaders and promised military and economic assistance in support of Turkey's position in the Gulf crisis.

In the letter, the U.S. president thanked Turkey for its "decisive and constructive policy" in the Gulf crisis, according to a statement from the Turkish presidential palace.

U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Morton Abramowitz told reporters that the talks with Turkish officials had been "fruitful."

He said Baker and Turkish President Turgut Ozal had discussed a U.S. military assistance programme for Turkey, but he gave no details.

The Turkish statement said "an important development" had been reached on U.S. military and economic aid packages being prepared for Turkey. It did not elaborate.

Baker later departed for London.

Soviet Gulf expert Yevgeny Primakov said Saddam sees himself as the target of a complex conspiracy and believes if his demise is inevitable it is preferable by war.

In an interview with the U.S. Cable News Network Primakov said a recent conversation he had with Saddam, whom he was known for 21 years, convinced him the Iraqi leader thinks the world is out to get him.

"After my conversation with him, I don't feel he is bluffing when he says that after his military success as he calls it against Iran, he became the object of a conspiracy," said Primakov.

"He (Saddam) feels there is a complex conspiracy to eliminate him, to surround Iraq, to strangle Iraq," he added.

Primakov said he felt there was still time to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis and avoid war with Iraq.

"I don't think he (Saddam) has fully oriented himself toward a military confrontation with the

United States and other countries that support America," he said.

But Primakov said that if Saddam viewed his position as hopeless, he would choose war.

"Now, if he is sure that the only choice is either to die, or to stand on his knees only to die afterward, he would prefer war, where everybody loses," he said.

Asked if he believed Saddam was a "mad man" who saw himself as saviour of the Arab people, Primakov replied:

"No, I can tell you... I've known him for 21 years, 21 years. That's enough time to figure out what someone is like, whether or not he has some eccentricities."

"I think that man, without a doubt, has a strong will — without a doubt understands the game he is playing," he added.

The commander of the U.S. navy's Middle East force has accused Iraq of sowing mines in the Gulf, and said U.S.-led forces have detonated 17 in the region since December.

William M. Fogarty said some of the mines apparently broke free from Iraqi defences in the Gulf off the coast of Kuwait in heavy weather.

President Bush, freshly armed with congressional support for the use of force against Iraq, said Saturday that war could still be avoided in the Gulf if Iraq begins a "massive, rapid withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait" before Tuesday.

Bush refused to say what action he would take if Iraq continued to defy withdrawal demands after Tuesday, but said he would be inclined to act "sooner rather than later."

"Let there be no mistake," the president told reporters at the White House after the House and Senate bestowed the war-making authority. "Peace is everyone's goal. Peace is in everyone's prayers. But it is for Iraq to decide."

Bush said the votes — 250-183 in the House and 52-47 — sent a clear signal that Iraq "cannot scorn the Jan. 15 deadline." He said congressional authority for peace provided "the best shot for peace" just three days before the deadline.

On the diplomatic front, Mr. Bush said he viewed Mr. Perez de Cuellar's current trip to Baghdad as the "main initiative out there right now" for defusing the crisis.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev "may want to send somebody" to Baghdad, Bush said. The European Community may decide "to do the same," but I don't know of that for a fact certain."

Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

Heavy fighting forced Italy to cancel three evacuation flights it had planned for last Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Qaybadih said one sign of progress in Somalia was the fact the 170-member national assembly was due to meet on Sunday evening to discuss the situation.

The government had invited 100 elders and notables from all tribes to a meeting later Sunday to hammer out ways of ending the fighting, he added.

Asked if Siad Barre was willing to leave office, a key rebel demand, to allow national reconciliation, Qaybadih said the president could only be changed constitutionally through elections promised for later this year.

"Siad Barre was elected constitutionally and can (only) be changed constitutionally but not at the barrel of the gun."

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Economists predict U.S. interest rates to decline

WASHINGTON (R) — Interest rates in the United States are likely to tumble, economists predict, because few other remedies are available to spur the U.S. economy out of recession.

Economists say the Bush administration is virtually unable to offer any stimulative spending programmes because its deficit is spiralling higher, public debt has reached gigantic proportions and war could be at hand in the Gulf.

The Federal Reserve Board (Fed) has steadily lowered interest rates as the economy's vigour faded and may feel freer to lower them again amid signs that inflation is easing.

Lower food and energy costs pulled wholesale prices down by 0.6 per cent in December, the first drop in eight months, as the recession started holding back price rises.

"The Fed funds rate could be down to six per cent by the end of March," Prudential-Bache Securities analysts Ed Yardeni and Bebie Johnson said in a commentary.

The budget for fiscal 1992, to

be presented to Congress Feb. 4, is expected to put the deficit for the year starting Oct. 1, heading to \$300 billion or more, leaving President George Bush little or no ground for initiatives.

Bush has said he will have some proposals for easing recession's bite in his State of the Union message to Congress on Jan. 29, but he avoided stirring much hope.

"What I'm going to do about it is to propose... a broad approach to economic matters that will, I think, enhance growth," Bush said. "But I have no plans to spend a lot of new federal dollars in order to accelerate recovery."

My guess is the State of the Union will be mostly fluff," said Lawrence Chimere, a senior economic counsellor with DRI, McGraw Hill Inc. in Lexington, Mass.

"If he does not have a capital gains tax cut in there, then there likely will be some other kind of growth-oriented tax cut. But it is likely to be minor and to have little impact on the economy," he added.

But a budget agreement between the White House and Congress means he must offset any capital gains tax cuts either with domestic spending cuts or with tax increases elsewhere.

The Fed has lowered the federal funds rate which banks charge each other for overnight loans five times since July, bringing it down a total of 1.25 percentage points to 6.75 per cent and thus lowering borrowing costs for banks.

Last month it also cut the discount rate — the rate at which banks borrow from the central bank — to 6.5 per cent.

Some reports suggest a debate is under way within the Fed about the wisdom of continuing to cut interest rates for fear of fanning inflation.

But, with unemployment rising and banks wary about lending to heavily-indebted consumers and businesses, economists feel rates must keep falling until banks start lending again.

They say any other course might aggravate the slowdown and put more people out of work.

Jordanian project gets \$3m loan

JEDDAH (AP) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has approved new grants and loans totaling \$42.32 million for a number of member states, bank sources announced Saturday.

The allocations from the bank were in the form of interest-free loans, special assistance and non-refundable grants. Gambia will get \$1.2 million to cover the hard currency needed to expand and refurbish a health centre. The Moroccan corporation in charge of exploitation of maritime wealth will obtain \$2.5 million to purchase a fishing boat. The Qatar Islamic Bank will get a credit line of \$10 million to finance small and medium-size projects in Qatar. Jordan will get a loan of \$3 million to finance the construction of a specialised hospital for the treatment of cancer.

G-7 economic officials to discuss Gulf and Soviet Union this month

WASHINGTON (R) — Economic policymakers from major industrial nations are expected to explore ways of sheltering the world economy from the triple threat of war in the Gulf, a crack-up of the Soviet Union and a global recession when they meet later this month.

International monetary sources said finance ministers and central bankers from the powerful Group of Seven (G-7) are putting the finishing touches on arrangements for a January meeting in New York.

A final date for the meeting has not yet been set, but Jan. 20 has been widely mentioned as most likely.

Monetary sources said G-7 nations are likely to discuss the crisis in the Gulf, economic instability in the Soviet Union and

coordination of economic policy when they meet.

Policymakers from many of the seven have sought to portray the meetings as routine, saying it was usual for representatives from Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and West Germany to get together early in the year.

But the gathering will be anything but routine if Iraq refuses to pull out of Kuwait by the Jan. 15 deadline set by the United Nations and war breaks out in the Gulf.

The World Bank has forecast that oil prices would shoot to \$65 per barrel in the event of a war. That would probably trigger turmoil on world currency and financial markets and send the global economy into a tailspin.

The world economy is already

looking shaky, with three of the G-7 — Britain, Canada, and the United States — already in a recession.

But the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) believes that the industrial world will enjoy its ninth straight year of growth in 1991, thanks to the continued buoyant economies of Germany and Japan.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), which draws up economic forecasts for G-7 meetings, is likely to second that view when it presents its private assessment to the group later this month, monetary sources said.

But like the OECD, the IMF has probably turned more gloomy about the U.S. economic outlook and G-7 members are

likely to emphasise the importance of the U.S. sticking to its agreement to reduce its budget deficit at the meeting later this month.

Some monetary sources said that Germany could come also under some pressure at the meeting to put its fiscal and monetary policies into better balance.

The German government is shelling out billions of marks to pay for the unification of east and west, while the country's central bank is keeping interest rates high to fend off inflation from an overheated economy.

France has made no secret of its desire for a change in the policy mix in Germany, criticising monetary policy there as overly tight and fiscal policy as overly lax.

Economic downturn, Gulf crisis overshadow diamond market

LONDON (AP) — The worldwide economic downturn, high interest rates and the Gulf crisis made for a lacklustre diamond market in 1990, figures released by the De Beers diamond cartel showed.

Sales of rough, uncut, diamonds rose two per cent to \$4.17 billion last year, from \$4.09 billion in 1989, De Beers' marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation said.

It termed 1990 "a year of consolidation" and said the sales were satisfactory.

However, the sales fell in real terms — after inflation.

Sales also dropped 32 per cent in the second half of the year from the robust first half, because of the international economic climate and the Gulf crisis, the organisation said. It said it curtailed diamond supplies as a result.

"Broadly speaking, we feel that's pretty good, considering what's happening," said Bill Lear, a director of the London-based organisation. "But it is clearly a real drop."

Officials for what is formally known as De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. said the outlook was uncertain, because of the continuing Middle East turmoil — which has undermined

consumer confidence by propelling oil prices, and thus inflation, higher.

However, the new 10 per cent luxury tax that went into effect in the United States on Jan. 1 won't have a large effect, one diamond expert predicted.

The Central Selling Organisation markets 80 per cent of the world's diamond production, which comes to about 100 million carats a year.

1990 was a second less-than-glittering year. Sales fell two per cent in 1989, after large gains of 35 per cent in 1988 and 19 per cent in 1987.

The recession in the United States had a big impact in 1990, said Martin Rapoport, who produces the New York-based Rapoport Diamond Report industry newsletter.

The United States, the world's largest diamond consumer, buys about a third of all polished stones set in diamond jewelry, De Beers says.

"The United States market is a major problem," Rapoport said. "We're sitting here with

rising unemployment, the U.S. is in a recession, a war is about to break out.

"The psychology of the consumer is imperative when you're dealing with non-necessities," he said. "People are not in the mood to go out and buy a nice sexy piece of jewelry."

Rapaport also cited higher worldwide interest rates.

The overall sales also were hurt by the volatile Japanese stock market, Van Eeghen said.

Because of the overall softer market, the organisation raised rough diamond prices just 5.5 per cent in 1990, compared with 15.5 per cent in the previous year.

The cartel says it seeks long-term stability and prosperity for the industry. By stockpiling diamonds during downturns, it avoids price fluctuations that it says would undermine public confidence in the value of the precious gems.

De Beers hasn't reduced prices since it began announcing prices in 1964.

Japanese businessmen foresee economic slowdown in 1991

TOKYO (AP) — Most Japanese businessmen responding to a new poll foresee Japan's stretch of economic expansion, now 49 months old, ending sometime in 1991, Kyodo News Service has reported.

Kyodo said that in its survey of the chief executive officers of 100 major companies 71 per cent expected a downturn by the end of the year, although 38 per cent predicted the expansion would last into the year's second half.

If it continues through August, the expansion would match Japan's post-World War II record of 57 months, set between October 1965 and July 1970.

Those expecting a downturn in late 1991 said Japan's economy would suffer from higher interest rates, weaker capital spending and a downturn in the U.S. economy.

Kyodo said 71 per cent forecast 1991 economic growth of between 3.5 and 4.0 per cent. The government has predicted 3.8 per cent growth in fiscal 1991, starting in April, compared with the anticipated 5.2 per cent in fiscal 1990.

Asked about the yen's exchange rate against the U.S. dollar, Kyodo said, 52 per cent

expected the dollar to fall to 125-130 yen during the year. The dollar closed 1990 at 135.40, down from 143.30 a year earlier.

Kyodo said 67 per cent predicted that the Tokyo Stock Exchange's key index, the 225-share Nikkei stock average, would not climb above 30,000 points. It ended 1990 trading at 23,848.71, down from 38,915.87 at the end of 1989. It fell to 20,221.86 last Oct. 1.

The same percentage forecast no improvement in Japan's labour shortage in 1991, Kyodo added.

It said 72 per cent expected a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis, but 54 per cent predicted no major harm to the Japanese economy if war did break out.

On one of the major U.S.-Japan trade issues, 86 per cent predicted Japan would partially lift its ban on imports of foreign rice, Kyodo reported.

The chief executive officers responded to a questionnaire sent out in mid-December. It did not cite a margin of error for its poll. Japanese pollsters do not calculate such margins, claiming that publication of a precise margin of error might mislead readers into thinking a poll is more accurate than it really is.

ENI chief envisages \$60-\$80 oil price

ROME (R) — A six to nine-month Gulf war could push oil prices to over \$80 a barrel, the head of Italy's state-owned energy giant has said.

Gabriele Cagliari, chairman of the Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI), told the Socialist Party newspaper Avanti such a price jump would lead to a fall in demand of 2.5 million barrels a day for the first three months and of three million for the next three months.

A war lasting between one and two months, he said in an interview published Sunday, could push the oil price to \$60 a barrel initially for psychological reasons, even before any damage to oil fields.

Since Aug. 2, when Iraq took over Kuwait, oil prices have soared as high as \$41 a barrel before easing to a current range of \$25 to \$28.

Exiled Kuwaiti Oil Minister Rashid Salem Al Ameri has said he expected oil prices of between \$21 and \$25 a barrel if the Gulf crisis was resolved peacefully.

Ameri said his government would revise oil and other policies once it was back in power.

Analysts expect airlines, chemical firms to suffer most from long Gulf war

LONDON (R) — Airlines and chemical firms would suffer most from a long war in the Gulf, but it could prove a windfall for aerospace and defence firms, analysts have said.

A prolonged war could send fuel prices soaring, pushing up the cost of manufacturing, they said.

A short war could lead to weaker oil prices and renew global economic confidence.

George Hodgson, equity strategist at merchant bank Warburgs, said a short war would not have much direct impact on company earnings. But a protracted conflict would hurt companies by damaging confidence in a world economy already slowing sharply.

He said airlines would be among the hardest hit by war, with rising jet fuel prices, falling demand and the threat of terrorism.

Conversely, defence companies could be aided by stronger orders in the Middle East, which could replace some of the losses suffered as East-West tensions declined over the past year and military budgets were pared back.

Bob Bucknell, airline analyst at stockbrokers Smith New Court, said the impact of higher

oil prices would be blunted by the fact that many airlines had already bought their fuel for the next six months.

But the already weakened airline sector is more vulnerable to falling demand, he said, noting Americans in particular had shown reluctance to travel when Middle East tensions were high.

Michael Simmonds, head of European equity strategy at stockbrokers Yamaichi, said people tended to spend more time at home in times of war.

The stay-at-home trend would not only hurt airlines but could also affect consumer spending habits, pressuring already weak retail spending, he said. Britain and the United States have seen sharp slowdowns in the stores sector.

"A short war of eight weeks or so would be only a blip for companies' earnings prospects," Simmonds said, adding that the main impact would be on oil dependent industries such as chemicals, cement and glass-making.

Some multinationals, such as Britain's Imperial Chemical Industries, could be cushioned from the impact of a war by a surge in the value of the dollar — a traditional crisis bolt-hole for investors.

World Bank lends China \$168 million

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank has announced \$168.4 million in loans to improve living conditions in three Chinese cities.

President George Bush has urged the bank to lend to China only for basic human needs. The United States has the largest share of votes among the 151 governments that own the bank but does not have a veto on loans, which are approved at closed meetings.

Barbara Clay, a press officer at the U.S. Treasury, declined to say how the U.S. representative voted. One official, who asked

not to be quoted, said the American had abstained.

The bank, the biggest source of aid loans to the Third World, has slowed its lending to China since the tanks went into Tiananmen Square to put down the movement toward democracy.

The help will go to Changzhou, in eastern China near Shanghai, and to Louyang and Shashi in the central part of the country. Louyang has a population of over a million, Changzhou about 600,000 and Shashi about 300,000, bank officials said.

Colombian coffee exports hit record

BOGOTA (AP) — Colombia exported more coffee in 1990 than at any other time in its history, the National Coffee Growers' Federation has said.

The world's second largest coffee producer after Brazil, Colombia exported 13.8 million 60-kilogramme sacks of coffee in 1990, a report by the federation said. That represented some \$1.4 billion in earnings. Last year's coffee export was 28 per cent higher than that of 1989, the report said.

Soviet Union to increase food, consumer goods prices in 1991

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet food and consumer goods prices will rise in 1991 as the country moves towards a market economy, a senior government official was quoted as saying.

Anatoly Komin, first deputy head of the State Pricing Committee, said in an interview with the Communist Party daily Pravda that retail price reform should start in the first half of the year.

"Today's prices are overloaded with subsidies... therefore it is inevitable that there will be increases," Komin said.

"In 1991, we cannot avoid

implementing very radical measures to improve and reform retail prices. There has to be a significant rise in prices for most consumer goods, above all for food," he emphasised.

He did not say how much food prices would have to rise. But increases of between 50 and 70 per cent were envisaged for cars, refrigerators, radios and televisions.

The Soviet government tried to raise food prices last May but was forced by widespread discontent and panic buying to reconsider

the move.

Price reform is a key component of plans to introduce a market economy and make the rouble currency convertible.

This year's retail price rises will be controlled by the state and accompanied by compensatory increases in wages, pensions, grants and other allowances, Komin said.

"When all of this becomes compatible and prices correspond to those abroad, then we can talk about convertibility of the rouble."

Komin said wholesale prices

for some industrial goods had already risen, starting Jan. 1.

Fuel and wood prices doubled, metal prices rose 50 per cent and machinery prices jumped by 40 per cent.

President Mikhail Gorbachev announced price rises for a range of luxury goods in November. But his decree was defied by a number of republics, including the giant Russian Federation.

Komin said price reform had already been delayed by at least three years and had to be implemented in agreement with all 15 Soviet republics.

Britain seeks leading role for hard ECU

LONDON (R) — Britain, once the most reluctant of European countries to adopt European Commission President Jacques Delors' blueprint for a single European currency, may now be set to help achieve this goal, economists have said.

Prime Minister John Major's proposal for a hard European Currency Unit (ECU) was originally set out as an alternative to

Delors' plan, but economists believe Major is now keen for his proposal to be the mechanism for achieving a single currency.

Under the British plan, the hard ECU would be a financial unit to be used by European business in parallel with the existing 12 European Community (EC) currencies.

A European Monetary Fund (EMF) would issue the currency, set hard ECU interest rates and intervene in foreign exchange

markets to assure its value. If member states agreed, it could eventually evolve into a single EC currency.

Economists said the hard ECU plan was increasingly being seen as a way of putting Delors' plan into action.

"The Delors plan was just a statement of intent with no way of getting there," said Bill Allen, economist and director of investment management company Burroughes and Co.

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Amman Transport & Municipal Development Project (Loan No. 2334 - JO)

EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE

The Municipality of Greater Amman announces the extension of the closing date of the Road Maintenance Equipment Tender until February 4, 1991.

Tenders Department
Municipality of Greater Amman
P. O. Box 132
Amman - Jordan

Die Deutsche Botschaft Informiert:

An alle Deutschen in Jordanien

Alle Deutschen werden gebeten, mit ihren Ehepartnern und Kindern am Dienstag, den 15. Januar 1991 zwischen 8.00 und 13.00 Uhr zur Besprechung persönlicher Schutzmassnahmen im Gebäude der ehemaligen Botschaft der DDR in Um Uthaina vorzusprechen.

Bitte bringen Sie die entsprechenden Ausweispapiere mit sich.
Für weitere Fragen steht die Botschaft gerne zur Verfügung (Tel. 689351)

Baker: Lithuania crackdown endangers U.S.-Soviet ties

ANKARA (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Sunday that Moscow's use of force in Lithuania would endanger the U.S.-Soviet partnership.

In a tough statement issued to reporters on his plane Baker said: "It's hard for me... to understand how force can be used, especially now, to suppress newly emerging democratic institutions."

Baker said he was deeply disturbed and saddened by the reported death of 13 people killed by Soviet troops and tanks in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius.

"Enduring U.S.-Soviet cooperation, indeed partnership, depends on continued reform — for partnership is impossible in the absence of shared values," Baker said in a statement handed to reporters as he landed in Ankara.

Baker said the use of force by the Soviet government "fundamentally and tragically contradicts the basic principles of perestroika, glasnost and democratisation."

"Perestroika is based on the rule of law, not rule by force," Baker said.

Senate rebukes Gorbachev

In Washington, the U.S. Senate has adopted a resolution calling on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to refrain from "unacceptable coercive tactics" against the Baltic republics.

The resolution was adopted early Saturday, several hours before residents in the capital of Lithuania reported that gunfire erupted, tanks were seen roaring down city streets and the separatist republic's radio and television went off the air early Sunday.

The Senate vote came during a break in a debate on President George Bush's request for authority to use force against Iraq. There was no recorded vote on the Soviet resolution.

The resolution, sponsored by Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, Democratic leader George Mitchell and Democrat Bill Bradley, stated that Moscow had deployed troops in Lithuania and had begun to use force to impose its rule.

It called on Gorbachev "to refrain from further use of coercive tactics against the democratically elected governments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia."

NATO discusses Lithuania

In Brussels, NATO allies met in emergency session Sunday to discuss the Soviet crackdown in Lithuania, alliance sources said.

The sources told Reuters senior officials from all 16 Western allies had met Saturday and were meeting again Sunday.

"Firing at people with machine-guns is not exactly what the West wants," said one NATO source, who asked not to be identified. "The time for silence is over."

Both NATO and the European Community last week urged Moscow not to use force

or intimidation in the Baltic republics, which want to break away from Soviet rule.

EC condemns crackdown

In Luxembourg, the European Community (EC) Sunday strongly condemned the Soviet military intervention in rebel Lithuania and demanded an explanation.

Luxembourg, which currently holds the rotating EC presidency, said in a statement:

"With consternation we learned of the bloody events that took place last night in Vilnius... in the name of the Community and its member states, the presidency strongly condemns the use of force."

"The presidency is waiting for explanations from Soviet authorities," it said.

The EC particularly wants an explanation "about the authorities who gave the order to fire on unarmed civilians," the statement said.

Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said the EC should reconsider its billion-dollar aid package to the Soviet Union.

"We must explain clearly to the Soviet Union that our aid is conditional," Eyskens told Belgian Television. "We have a means of pressure," he said, adding that the aid programme may be reviewed.

The Community has pledged and already started to deliver emergency food and medical aid to alleviate the Soviet Union's

economic crisis. It has also promised technical aid.

Eyskens said he was especially shocked by the crackdown since Gorbachev had said last week force would not be used.

"This is a worrying setback," he said, adding that it went some way to explaining the resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze — after warning that the country was heading for dictatorship.

"If this threatens the process of democratisation, we in the European Community will be faced with the question of whether we will be able to maintain our cooperation," Eyskens said.

Germany expresses concern

In Germany, the Foreign Ministry summoned the Soviet ambassador late Saturday to express concern at a "worrying escalation" in the Lithuanian crisis, a ministry spokesman said Sunday.

The spokesman told Reuters that Bonn was concerned at overnight events in the rebel Baltic republic where at least 13 people died and over 100 were injured when Soviet troops stormed the radio and television centre in Vilnius.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was in constant touch with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and the German Foreign Ministry had set up a special unit to follow developments in Lithuania, the spokesman added.

Lithuania (R) — Doctor Yelena Bezatskas held up the passport of the man whose abdomen had been crushed by a Soviet tank roaring through the streets of Lithuania's capital.

Then, her face grim and drawn, she pounded her fist into her lap and burst into tears.

"If I were a young person, I would never serve the state again, not as a doctor not as anything," she said.

Lithuanian officials say 11 people were killed and more than 100 injured when Soviet troops backed by tanks stormed the breakaway republic's main television and radio station in the early hours Sunday.

Later, rows of soldiers illuminated by searchlights stood on a rise next to the city's occupied television tower, their work completed two hours after tanks raced straight at young people massed five metres deep to protect the installation.

Around the tower, on the western edge of Vilnius, I watched as thousands of pro-independence Lithuanians milled around tanks shaking their fists and screaming abuse at the troops who fired volley after volley into the air.

Dozens of injured people were loaded into ambulances, their cries of pain almost drowned out by the roar of tank motors and the crackle of submachine-guns as soldiers fired into the air.

"I thought at first I would be a hero and stand my ground and that they wouldn't run me down," 38-year-old Antanas

Sakalauskas, both his legs crushed, said from a hospital bed.

"The tank tracks went over both my legs. I'm sure there were about four other people underneath. People screamed for the tanks to stop but they drove straight on."

Not all Vilnius residents denounced the army action — notably members of the vocal Russian minority generally opposed to Lithuanian independence.

"There's nothing wrong with what they're doing," said a middle-aged Russian who answered my knock in an apartment building near the tower only to slam it in my face. "They have to restore order. The Lithuanians were getting it all wrong."

Steponaitis Rumos, one of 11 guards manning positions inside the tower, said he knew of only three people who got out safely.

"They smashed the windows and suddenly the soldiers just jumped in and fired everywhere into the crowd," he said. "I saw at least two dead."

Pungent tear-gas billowed through the cobbled streets of the town. One light truck was reduced to a tangled mass of metal after colliding with a tank.

Western correspondents were manhandled by troops and much of their equipment confiscated.

A cameraman for Britain's ITN was frogmarched into the tower but later released. A crewmember of the U.S. NBC network was thrown against a wall by five paratroops.

"Occupiers bastards" young people screamed in Russian at young servicemen, their voices drowned out by megaphones aboard cars telling residents the small pro-Moscow "Committee of National Salvation" had taken control of government.

Nationalist activists placed dozens of buses in front of the parliament building to pre-empt any move against it. Row upon row of nylons, each in a tin can, honoured the dead.

"We just feel so bitter, so horrified to think that they could sweep us away. They're animals, fascists," said one weeping teenage girl.

"We feed them and they shoot us," grunted a man, referring to Lithuania's mass supplies of food to alleviate shortages in other parts of the Soviet Union.

Police major Antanas Stankus said he had tried to negotiate with troops as the first six tanks advanced on the tower at 1.30 a.m. — joined immediately by a larger column.

A soldier raised his rifle butt and pushed it into my face and I was pushed aside," he said.

"One of the tanks ran straight over a man and must have killed him. They then moved forward, firing from turrets backed by paratroopers on foot."

Flare rockets smashed huge window panes, sending shards of glass cascading down onto the thousands of young demonstrators, causing severe gashes.

"The tanks then drove straight at the crowd and the battle was launched to clear the perimeter around the tower," he said. "No one knows what they did inside the tower."

Tanks drive over crowds in Vilnius

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More 'masterpieces' appear since Van Gogh discovery

CHICAGO (AP) — Set off by the discovery of a previously unknown painting by Dutch master Vincent Van Gogh, calls are pouring in to an auction house by people convinced that they, too, have an old master's work tucked away in their closet. A Florida man called to say he had several Van Goghs, a Rembrandt "and a Da Vinci, I think," said Leslie Hindman, whose auction house in March will sell a Van Gogh found in a Wisconsin couple's home.

"He's sending photos, but you know, it's kind of silly," she said. "We've had calls from people who think they have Renoirs, Monets, Van Goghs — it's hilarious," said Hindman. The Van Gogh "to be auctioned was spotted by a part-time worker at Leslie Hindman auctioneers. It was determined authentic by senior curators at the Rijksmuseum-Vincent Van Gogh in Amsterdam — one of the world's greatest collections of works by the 19th century artist. But since announcement of the discovery this week, Hindman said her office has been deluged with calls from people who are sure they also own a masterpiece. Some people who call are taking the cautious approach, she said. "They're really funny. I'm not going to tell you anything. I'm not going to tell you where I live," Hindman said. The Van Gogh authenticated by Dutch authorities may bring about \$500,000 at auction, even though it is considered to be a minor work, Hindman said. It is owned by a suburban Milwaukee couple who asked not to be identified. Hindman said she plans to check all the calls she is now receiving.

Marcos paintings fetch top prices

NEW YORK (AP) — Paintings by El Greco and Raphael fetched the top prices at an auction of old master paintings once owned by the late Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife, Imelda, auctioneers said. The sale realised 15.4 million, well above the high estimate of \$10 million, said Susan Britman, a spokeswoman for Christie's auction house, earlier, the Marcoses' former collection of antique silver brought nearly 5 million. "Across the board, there were excellent prices," she said. All 98 paintings sold. Seventy-four of the paintings were put on the auction block by the Philippine government, the rest by the U.S. government. El Greco's oval oil painting, titled "The Coronation of the Virgin," was bought by an anonymous bidder for \$2.3 million. The Justice Department seized the El Greco and other paintings in 1987 in France from Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi during an investigation that led to the indictment of Khashoggi and the Marcoses.

'86 camaro tops list of most stolen vehicles

DETROIT (R) — For the fourth year running, the 1986 Chevrolet Camaro has won the dubious honour of most-stolen car in the United States, according to an insurance valuation company. CCC Information Services Inc. of Chicago said in its annual listing of most frequently stolen vehicles that the 1988 Hyundai Excel GL jumped from 10th on last year's list to no. 4 this year, making it the most stolen imported car in 1990. Cars are stolen mostly for parts, not joy rides, said William Geem, vice president for valuation services at CCC. "That clearly is the stance the insurance industry has taken," he said. "Where the car itself isn't terribly exciting or high in resale value, then it would tend to mean that there is a demand for the parts." As in past years, General Motors Corp. cars, including the Camaro, dominated the top 10, holding down all spots but the Hyundai's. In fact, of the first 20 on CCC's list, 16 cars were made at GM plants. The most-stolen Ford Motor Co. product was the 1988 Mustang GT, in 42nd place. A Chrysler Corp. vehicle doesn't show up on the list until no. 97, the '93 Jeep Cherokee 4x4. New York was the state with the highest percentage of stolen cars last year, with about 5,400, or 3 per cent, of all the stolen cars reported to CCC. It was followed by California, Texas, New Jersey and Illinois. CCC, one of the major insurance valuation companies, provided about 1.2 million vehicle valuations for the automobile insurance industry last year. About 14.7 per cent of those were for stolen cars.

South African police arrest 10 suspects after township massacre

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Police have arrested 10 people in connection with an attack on an African National Congress (ANC) funeral vigil that killed 35 people, the government announced Sunday.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok also said a 9 a.m.-to-4 a.m.-curfew has been imposed on black Sebokeng township, where Saturday's attack occurred, and that it has been declared "an unrest area."

The declaration gives police wide powers to detain people and put down unrest.

Nelson Mandela led an ANC delegation Sunday to Sebokeng, where police and army vehicles patrolled the dirt township roads.

Police said two women were fatally burned and five houses set on fire in Sebokeng in apparent revenge attacks for the assault on mourners holding an all-night

vigil for a slain ANC activist.

Saturday's pre-dawn massacre also injured dozens of people, including children, and drew condemnation from the government, black opposition groups and newspapers.

"Either this country opts to meet the future in conditions of relative stability or it slides into anarchy, brutishness and slaughter," the Sunday Times said in an editorial. "The warning is obvious: Unless South Africans take steps to end the violence immediately, there is an imminent danger that the country will slip beyond the grasp of moderates."

No details on the identities of the arrested suspects were immediately available.

Vlok said further arrests were expected and that several Ak-47 automatic rifles had been seized, including one linked to Saturday's attack.

3 major Sikh groups unite in Punjab

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Three major Sikh parties have merged in the first attempt at political union in the prosperous state of Punjab, wracked by eight years of separatist violence.

Press Trust of India (PTI) and United News of India (UNI) said the new party, known as Shromani Akhali Dal, will be led by Simranjit Singh Mann, a leading politician who is known to be backed by separatist militants.

Announcing the merger in Punjab's capital Chandigarh, Mann said the Sikh leaders will "unitedly fight for self-determination for Sikhs," the two news agencies reported.

Mann conveyed the same demand to Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar last month in their first round of talks on the Punjab rebellion.

Mann or other Sikh leaders have not said what constitutes self-determination, but top Indian politicians have warned the government against conceding the demand, saying it will lead to the break-up of the nation.

At the news conference, Mann said the leaders of the three former factions — Akhali Dal-Badal, Akhali Dal-Longowal and Akhali Dal-Mann — have authorised him to continue the talks with the government.

A United Akhali Dal, or Eternal Party, broke up 30 years ago and subsequent splits have left several factions that have worked at cross purposes in Punjab.

Mann said the Shiromani Akhali Dal, or the Apex Eternal Party, will call a public rally in Ludhiana on Jan. 26 to protest the "military occupation" of Punjab, the two agencies reported.

The Indian government has sent thousands of troops in Punjab's western districts, which border Pakistan, to ostensibly check infiltration of what the military says is Pakistan-trained militants.

Pakistani coalition sweeps by-elections

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's Islamic ruling coalition has won a landslide victory in by-elections held earlier this week, news reports said Saturday.

Polling results were delayed because of the remote location of several of the polling sites, an election commission spokesman said.

The ruling Islamic Orthodox Coalition (IJC) won six seats in the policy-making National Assembly while the Pakistan Peoples Party of former premier Benazir Bhutto took one seat. The other went to an independent.

The government also won 11 of the 16 provincial assembly seats being contested. Bhutto's party took two and so did independent candidates.

Police reported that most voting was conducted peacefully.

However, a prominent religious leader and National Assembly member, Esarul Qasmi, was gunned down in the city of Jhang, 320 kilometres from Islamabad. Voting was suspended there after the shooting.

Up to 50 people were reported killed in the general elections last October. The ruling coalition led by Bhutto, a stunning defeat, reducing her party to a weak opposition in the 217-seat assembly.

Ms. Bhutto accused the coalition of poll-rigging, intimidation and influence peddling.

"We knew what was going to happen. We took part in it just to gather evidence in favour of our charges of rigging," Bhutto was quoted as saying in the influential Urdu-language newspaper Jang.

In a separate development, the government deployed the army in the tiny village of Jhang near the capital of Islamabad to quash bloody communal violence between warring Islamic sects, news reports said Saturday.

Relentless firing during the past week has left up to five people dead, including an influential religious leader and member of the parliament.

Several hundred soldiers in machine-gun mounted jeeps be-

gan enforcing a shoot-on-sight curfew late Friday after gunmen fired into a funeral procession for Esarul Haq Qasmi, member of the law-making National Assembly, who was killed last Thursday.

One person was killed and several shops were burned before police and army troops dispersed the mob shortly after sunset Friday.

Qasmi was a senior leader of Anjuman-E-Sipah-e-Sahaba, or soldiers of Prophet Mohammad's Companions, a Sunni Muslim group opposing the pro-Iranian Shi'ites. Members of the sects have been feuding in Jhang for more than a year and scores on both sides have been killed.

About 90 per cent of Pakistan's 120 million people are Sunni Muslims, while about 5 per cent are Shi'ite.

Interfax resumes work with Yeltsin help

MOSCOW (R) — The independent Soviet news agency Interfax has resumed operations with the help of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin a day after it had been closed down by state radio and television chiefs.

Chief Editor Mikhail Kommissar told Reuters Yeltsin and Arkady Vol'sky, a former Kremlin official who now heads a new scientific and industrial union, had provided premises for it and its news service Baltfax.

"We are both back in opera-

tion," Kommissar said. Both agencies resumed services to their clients — Soviet newspapers and organisations and foreign news offices and embassies — Saturday evening.

Kommissar said the two agencies were working from an office in Yeltsin's headquarters offered by the Russian leader and another in the union premises — alongside the Communist Party Central Committee headquarters in central Moscow.

Baltfax, run by journalists

from the rebel Baltic republics working in Moscow and providing a service of news from the region giving a different view than the official Moscow media, had merged its operation with Interfax on Jan. 1.

Interfax, founded as a joint operation between Moscow Radio and a Franco-Italian company in 1989 but an independent company since last October, had equipment cut off and impounded Friday at its offices in a Moscow Radio building.

Lithuania ready to form government in exile

WARSAW (R) — Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas said Sunday he would form a government in exile if Soviet military intervention prevented the rebel republic's elected government from working.

"If the government and parliament of Lithuania for these or other reasons cannot function, I am obliged by the Lithuanian parliament's vote today at eight in the morning to build a government in exile," Saudargas told a Warsaw news conference.

Saudargas insisted the rebel republic's current government and parliament were still functioning, despite the curfew imposed by the Soviet army in Vilnius and Kaunas and moves to instal a new pro-Moscow government.

"The Lithuanian government is still functioning well because it is conducting an unequal, heavy battle... I still hope I won't have to create any government outside the borders of Lithuania," he said.

"The drama of this night shows that Stalinism is still alive. It shows the world that unpunished crimes will come to life again."

"Nobody is safe from this, including naive Western countries which give Nobel Peace Prizes to criminals," he added, referring to last year's award to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Asked what the Soviet Union demanded of Lithuania, Saudargas replied: "Judging by last night, I see only the demand for blood."

He said Moscow's line that Lithuania must demonstrate in a referendum its will to leave the Soviet Union was "immoral."

The exhausted foreign minister spoke after travelling from Lithuania Saturday by car and train and spending the night on the telephone to Vilnius.

He said Soviet army snipers on the other side of the river had fired at a couple of Lithuanian deputies near the parliament building, but missed.

These were the first shots fired on the Lithuania parliament," Saudargas said.

He denied reports that armed Lithuanians in a huge crowd outside the parliament building might have returned the fire of Soviet soldiers.

"I have heard on the hot line that no shots were from the side of the Lithuanians. If they have any guns, no fire was opened. The shooting was one-sided only," he said.

"In the crowd, only the Soviet soldiers have guns."

Saudargas said he had the names of five young Lithuanians of at least 13 who had been killed.

"They are young people born from 1962 to 1966... they were shot. There are many people wounded, more than 100," he said.

At least four persons died in a building set ablaze by rioters in central Athens, 95 injured including 29 police, and scores of arrests made during Thursday's and Friday's protests, the government said.

Police reported brief hit-and-run clashes Saturday with self-described anarchists outside the downtown campus of Athens Polytechnic. The masked youths threw rocks and gasoline bombs at helmeted police who retaliated with baton-charges into their ranks and tear-gas grenades.

The youths had cut the tyres of public buses on a main city artery in front of the Athens Polytechnic which brought traffic to a standstill for almost 24 hours. As maintenance crews attempted to remove the buses, a youths tried to stop them but riot police moved quickly to chase them away.

Hundreds of youths weary from two days of fighting with police sought overnight refuge on the campus of the Athens Polytechnic. Security forces are reluctant to enter the campus for fear of sparking wider anti-government protests.

Several hundred self-described anarchists also battled police in the northern city of Salonica overnight and then sought refuge on Salonica University's campus. No serious injuries or arrests were reported.

A police official who requested anonymity, said damage to public and private property in Athens from two days of rioting and arson, totalled about 4 billion drachmas (\$25 million). He said at least six bank branches and two buildings were gutted by fires in addition to cars and buses and damaged shops.

But as relative calm returned to the capital and municipal crews cleaned up the debris strewn avenues, leftist student and labour organisations said they were planning to hold a giant anti-government demonstration in Athens on Jan. 15.

Student protests subside in Athens

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — An uneasy calm settled in the capital after two days of bloody clashes between youths and police following student protest marches over the death of a high school teacher.

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